Diverse crowd shows up at Paskong Pinoy. PAGE 2
McDonell extradition imminent. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 250

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# Man in custody after shooting wife

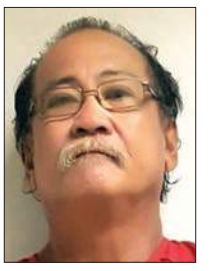
Police have arrested a man for allegedly shooting his wife with a rifle following an argument inside their house along Anonas Drive in Kagman last Saturday.

Norbert Blas Camacho is charged with attempted first-degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho has set bail at $500,000.

This case is still under investigation.

The Department of Public Safety said that at approximately 11:28pm last Saturday, officers responded to a report of a shooting.

Initial reports indicated the victim was locked inside a residence with a gunshot wound to the leg, while Camacho was in the road with a rifle in his possession. While driving to the scene, officers noticed a shirtless man, standing under a street light on Anonas Drive with a rifle seemingly pointed in their direction.



Camacho

Once officers took cover, they were no longer able to pinpoint the suspect's whereabouts. An ambulance was dispatched to the scene but

See MAN on Page 4

## Illegal workers vow to continue protests

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The remaining Chinese workers illegally recruited to work on the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan earlier this year said over the weekend that they would continue to protest for wages they believe are owed to them.

Having demonstrated over the weekend, the remaining seven members of the once 40-some tourist workers

See WORKERS on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Five remaining Chinese workers that were illegally recruited continue to protest over unpaid wages in front of the Imperial Pacific Resort.

## Yue Han of China wins 11th Asian Super Model Contest

BEA CABRERA

From left, 1st runner-up Su Suqi (China), champion Yeu Huan (China), and 2nd runners-up Kelly Yeap (Malaysia) and Mili Soni (India) at the 11th Asian Super Model Contest held last Dec. 16 at Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan.

See photo gallery on Pages 14 & 15

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-one-year-old Yue Han of China bagged the 11th Asian Super Model title considered as the "most authoritative and significant" international model contest in Asia after the weeklong competition that concluded last Saturday at the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan.

The Asian Super Model Contest was established by China Bently Culture development Co. Ltd., Japan Modeling Agencies Association, and Korea International Modeling to show the "health, spirit, and vigor of Asian young girls and push the development of the Asian modeling industry."

Han bested 27 aspiring models from other parts of the world such as Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, and Ubekistan.

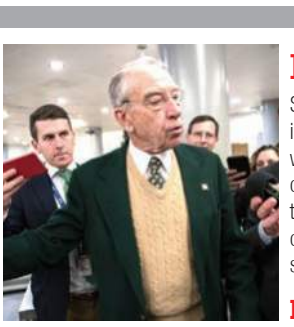
See YUE on Page 4

## INSIDE

### BUSINESS

Closing in on the first major legislative achievement of his term, President Donald Trump on Saturday defended the Republican tax cut as a good deal for the middle class.

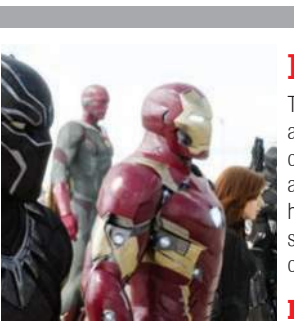
PAGE 16



### NATION

Special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian contacts with President Donald Trump's campaign has gained access to thousands of emails sent and received by Trump officials before the start of his administration.

PAGE 17



### LIFE & STYLE

The coming union of the Disney and Fox media empires is set to create a new nirvana for fanboys and -girls, one that reunites superheroes and sci-fi characters long separated by an energy barrier of corporate legalism.

PAGE 20

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# Local

# Diverse crowd shows up at Paskong Pinoy

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization hosted its annual Paskong Pinoy festival yesterday and gained the participation of a diverse crowd.

Paskong Pinoy is one of the most anticipated festivals in the Filipino community on Saipan and is also the organization's way of closing the year off with a bang.

This year, hundreds of individuals of different ethnic groups gathered at the Marianas Business Plaza parking area to celebrate the holidays with the UFO.

According to guest speaker Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, he has always been a part of the event and is always excited to be a part of the festivities.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Hundreds stand in respect sing the National Anthems of the United States and the Philippines during the annual Paskong Pinoy hosted by the United Filipino Organization yesterday.

During his opening remarks, Apatang said he is excited to celebrate Christmas with such a warm and joyous crowd.

"Here I am, having another great opportunity to celebrate this Christmas event with all of you. It is always joyous to see a lively crowd like this with smiles on," he said.

Apatang also emphasized the importance of recognizing the blessings of Christmas, and the importance of giving back during his remarks.

"How to celebrate Christmas may vary for each individual but what we should not forget is to find time to give thanks for the good things that have come to us and share the gift of giving," he said.

According to UFO president Marlon Regaton, Christmas is a universal holiday that brings friends and families together after one whole year.

"That's why we were gathered here today with a lot of blessings to be thankful for," he said.

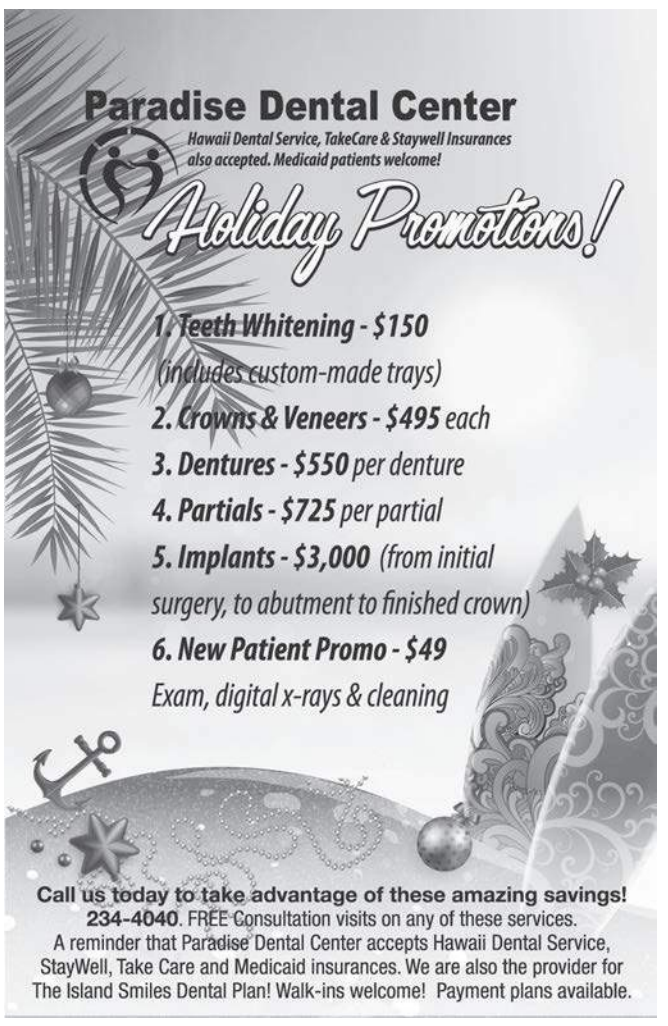
During Regaton's remarks, he said that the festivities, although it was organized by the UFO, would not be successful and as joyous without the participation of the community.

The morning half of the festivities started off with a live performance from the Emperador band followed by performances from a number of performing individuals, school groups, and performing groups.

The groups that took the stage yesterday were the Marianas High School Glee Club, Green Meadow School, Studio M performers, Golden Harvest International School, Cornerstone Youth performers, San Vicente School Glee Club, Olei Elementary School choral, Northern Marianas International. School, Uncle Ben's Studio, Koblerville Elementary School, Studio 29:11, Kristo Rai children's choir, Karate Club, Batang Pinoy performers, Saipan Music and Dance Studio, and the Saipan Ballroom Dancers.

There were also special performances by Patrick and Nhemie, Erica Tubera, Miguel Aninon, Jowel Estrellanes, Tammy Torres, and Juliet Inocencio.

Throughout the day, UFO staff sold raffle tickets and hosted a raffle drawing. The festivities also highlighted the popular Filipino game "Kwarta o Kahon" or "money or box."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## PACIFIC GOLD

## RESULTS

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# McDonell extradition imminent

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

## » Men to bring back suspect to Illinois arrive today

The extradition of Sean McDonnell, who was arrested on Saipan last October for sexually assaulting a child in Illinois, appears to be imminent.

At the status conference presided over by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last Friday, chief prosecutor Michelle Harris and assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid informed the court that a company called Inmate Services will be arriving on Saipan today, Dec. 18, to bring back McDonell to Illinois.

McDonnell, 39, who was present with assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, was told he has 45 days to be brought back to Illinois from Dec. 15, 2017.

Camacho stated in his order that in the event that McDonnel is not brought back to Illinios within 45 days, the court will hear arguments from the counsels of McDonnell whether or not he should be released from the Department of Corrections.

A status conference was set on Jan. 29, 2018 at 9am and ordered all parties to appear and if McDonnell has been extradited, the status conference shall be vacated.

McDonnell is wanted in the county of Rock Island in Illinois on multiple charges of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.

An Illinois judge issued an arrest warrant against McDonnell last Sept. 27 on charges of three counts of criminal sexual assault and four counts of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child. The Illinois judge imposed a $250,000 bail.

A joint effort between the U.S. Marshals and the Department of Public Safety, led by police sergeant George F. David, led to McDonnell's arrest last October.

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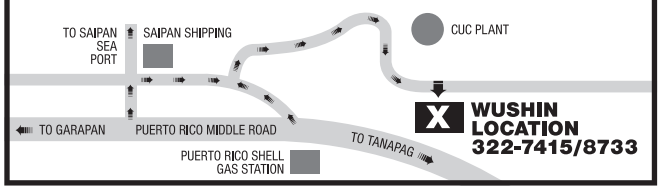


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6:00PM - 10:00PM

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Butternut Squash with Bradley Smoked Duck and laced with Black-Truffle Sunflower Oil
Strawberry and Baby Spinach in a Parmesan cup, with Roquefort Cheese, Roasted Pecans, and Creamy Balsamic Dressing
Pomegranate Grey Goose Granita Amusee
Garlic-Herb Crusted Roast Black Mountain Prime Rib with Chestnut-Mushroom Au Jus Haricot Vert and Pearl Onion Amandine Mousseline Potatoes
Key Lime Pie with Triple Berry Coulis

Set Menu B
Pan Seared Sea Scallops on Saffron Cream with a Duo of Black and Pink Caviar Bouquet of Edible Wild Flowers
Butternut Squash with Bradley Smoked Duck and laced with Black-Truffle Sunflower Oil
Strawberry and Baby Spinach in a Parmesan cup, with Roquefort Cheese, Roasted Pecans, and Creamy Balsamic Dressing
Pomegranate Grey Goose Granita Amusee
Fillet of Aurora Salmon on Grilled Pineapple with Avocado Tapenade Haricot Vert and Pearl Onion Amandine Mousseline Potatoes
Key Lime Pie with Triple Berry Coulis

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# $3.5M retiree bonus disbursement set for Wednesday

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog last Friday signed House Bill 20-145 authorizing the appropriation of $22 million of the Casino Gross Revenue Tax account for the payment of the 25 percent of the Settlement class members' full benefits and bonuses. The bill becomes Public Law 20-35.

The public law sets aside $3.5 million of the $22 million CGRT for bonus payments to be equally distributed to all retirees and beneficiaries.

Following the signing of the bill, the Department of Finance notified the Settlement Fund of the available funding in accordance with Public Law 20-35. Official disbursement of the payments is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017, subject to the Settlement Fund's appropriate action.

According to Secretary of Finance Larrisa Larson, the Settlement Agreement that the CNMI entered into to address the CNMI retirement issues prevents the implementation of a cost of living allowance (COLA).

Larson adds that because the administration recognizes that retirees are faced with increased cost of living expenses, the administration remains committed to releasing an annual bonus to retirees in place of the COLA until such time that the Settlement Agreement ends and the COLA can be reinstated.

"We are pleased to inform retirees and beneficiaries that the bonus will soon be available and we remind all retirees that this bonus is subject to taxes and must be filed as part of your tax filing in April of next year. In the previous year, each retiree received just over $1,200 and Gov. Torres, Lt. Gov. Hocog, and the Legislature are very pleased that we are able to appropriate funding for bonuses again and are very grateful going into the new year," Larson said.

Hocog noted that Torres remains committed to ensuring the security of benefits for retirees and is very pleased to appropriate another bonus to retirees and their beneficiaries this year.

"With this, I am happy to share that I have also signed House Bill 20-129 into Public Law 20-34 to address further concerns of the Settlement Fund Trustee and to reserve funds generated from the CGRT. This prioritizes and earmarks the first $22 million of the CGRT, which is put in place so that our retirees and their beneficiaries can continue to receive their hard-earned pensions. Along with Torres, it is our hope to continue this work of progress together as we press forward in the coming year. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May God bless you with peace and joy in the year ahead," Hocog said.

Due to differences in criteria and the timing of the holidays, retirees, and beneficiaries with any concerns must contact the Settlement Fund directly. ***(PR)***

# Local lawmaker relieved of US senator's commitment to CNMI

**By ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Torres administration chose not to release a comment on the recent scuffle between the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) during the corporation's first meeting in Washington, D.C. last week while a local lawmaker feels relieved with the commitment of a U.S. senator to the CNMI.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), who is vying for the delegate position this coming 2018 election, feels a "sense of relief" knowing of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) commitment to "introduce and pass legislation that will address the longterm workforce challenges facing the CNMI."

Murkowski chairs the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

"I am also pleased to learn that chairwoman Murkowski has welcomed Governor [Ralph DLG] Torres' involvement in the working group," he added.

In a past press release on their social media account, NMBAC described their first meeting in D.C.—a meeting with Sablan—as "disappointing." According to NMBAC, Sablan expressed "unwillingness" to support proposals that enjoy "widespread support in the Commonwealth."

NMBAC proposes to extend the CW-1 program, or the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program by 10 years with 15,000 to 18,000 slots, among others, which Sablan describes in his letter to the editor last Dec. 15, 2017, will be "difficult to sell in this anti-foreign worker, Republican administration and U.S. Congress."

Sablan explained in his piece explained that he was not at liberty to disclose details on the discussions in the working group led by Murkowski since they were "preliminary, sensitive, and confidential" after NMBAC stated in a past press release that they believe the delegate appeared to "prefer working with other members of the Congress without consulting with the CNMI government or the business community."

In response, Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that he was thankful that discussions were "more fruitful" between NMBAC and American Samoa Delegate Amata Radewagen (R-AS).

An NMBAC past press release said the group met with Radewagen, who in turn offered her support in the CNMI labor plight.

Radewagen is a member of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, which is under the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, which Sablan is also a member of.

The CNMI Congress last week passed House Joint Resolution 20-07, which was authored by Demapan, in order to support Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' efforts to discuss the CW-1 program extension and its surrounding provisions.

Both the House and Senate unanimously passed H.J.R. 20-07.

The Tinian leadership, consisting of Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, (R-Tinian), Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Francisco Borja (R-Tinian), and Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian) also voiced out their concerns over the CW-1 program expiration and went public in supporting Torres as well.

## YUE

*From Page 1*

The first runners-up were Ksenia of Russia and Su Siqi of China. Second runners-up were Mili Soni of India, Oh Sebin of Korea, and Kelly Yeap of Malaysia.

The Best T-Stage Performance Award went to Chen Yishin (Taiwan), The Best Body Award went to Jo Yeonhee (Korea), The Best Photogenic Award went to Klea Pineda (Philippines), The Most Potentiality Award went to Chenaya Aston (Australia), and The International Friendship Award went to Tashi Levett (New Zealand).

The Best Ten Asian Super Models Awards went to Sienna Harvey (Australia), Hengkai Yi (HongKong), Wang Yanzhe (Hong Kong), Namuunzul Altangerel (Mongolia), Nataporn (Thailand), Kristina Azizowa (Usbekistan), Sakai Yuka (Japan), Taniguchi Rio (Japan), Amreet Kaur (Malaysia), and Maria (Russia).

Saipan hosted the event for the first time, which was always held in Beijing, China since its inception. The event was made possible by Imperial Pacific Inc. LLC, Marianas Visitors Authority, and IT&E.

Firsova Tatiana, a famous model and a member of the jury committee that watched and judged the ladies all through out the competition, said that to be an Asian Super Super Model, standards had to be met.

"We look at the model's stature, exotic beauty, good skin that goes with other characteristics that are equally important such as culture and artistic skills, performance, and creative abilities," she said.

"We are excited that the contest is held here in the beautiful island of Saipan," she added.

The event was attended by close to 500 guests—IPI executives, CNMI officials, media-local, and international audience.

Fresh from his trip from Washington, D.C., Gov. Ralph DLG Torres graced the occasion with his wife, first lady Diann Torres.

"Events being held here such as this one in the CNMI is another worthwhile activity for the island because it is a way of putting the CNMI in the map. I am excited to see the representatives of 14 different countries and glad that they were able to see the beauty of the CNMI. Thank you to IPI for continued promotions about the CNMI because continued promotion assists the economy," he said.

Imperial Pacific Inc. majority stockholder Margaret Cui Lijie said that IPI will continue to bring in more bigger events in 2018.

"I consider Saipan as my second hometown and I will try my very best to support Saipan and to make sure that it becomes a better island," she said

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) said that the Asian Super Model Contest is a wonderful opportunity for the CNMI to gain additional exposure internationally.

"This in addition to what we already have from the MVA and I know there's a lot of international media here and a lot of visitors from several different countries because of this event. We appreciate the efforts of IPI for bringing this," he said.

"We have just finished with the Marianas Film Festival last week and now this. I know this a huge modeling event in the international arena so for it to come all the way to Saipan is a big plus for our economic activity," he added.

Demapan hopes that the people who were here because of the event would become repeat visitors.

"We also hope that they go back to their home countries and invite their families and friends come to the CNMI," he said.

According to MVA managing director Chris Concepcion having sponsored this event is MVA's way of elevating the experience for residents and tourists.

"MVA partnered with IPI and IT&E to promote the Marianas to local and international media to tell the world that there's a lot of things to see in the Marianas," he said.

As for supporting other beauty and modeling contests in the future, Concepcion said, "We are working with Stellar Marianas because they handle the local pageant which MVA is a sponsor. Whatever they decide to do, MVA would be happy to support it."

## MAN

*From Page 1*

was unable to gain access to the residence, as the suspect had not yet been apprehended. Officers located Camacho a short time later across from the scene in a small concrete home. He was taken into custody without incident.

The victim, later identified as Camacho's wife, says the couple had been arguing since Dec. 14, and matters escalated after having another argument earlier that evening. Witnesses say they heard at least four gunshots as well as a female yelling for help, before members inside the home led her to safety. Paramedics transported the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment at 12:03am, Sunday. The victim is now in stable condition. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

## WORKERS

*From Page 1*

hired by MCC International, the main contractor of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to work on the hotel-casino IPR, said in a statement over the weekend that they would continue to protest for their wages.

The workers were held of their wages after MCC's illegal hiring was unveiled.

According to the statement, some members of the worker group illegally hired paid over $6,000 in recruitment fees only to be reportedly forced to work for 13 hours a day "with little rest."

"We were docked pay or fired when we were sick and we were never paid what we were legally owed," the statement read.

IPI has attempted to negotiate with the Chinese workers, however, the remaining workers declined to accept offers less than what their coworkers received, which was reportedly significantly less than what is offered to those protesting.

According to the workers, IPI has not reached out to them during their last protest in Dec. 12, 2017. The workers protested once again last Friday at 1pm.

"…Until today, nobody from the casino has appeared to consult with us. They still refuse to provide us food or water," the statement said.

In an earlier communication, IPI through their lawyer Sean Frink informed the remaining workers that they would be ceasing humanitarian support of the workers as well as retract their offer to pay the wages owed to them according to the CNMI Department of Labor and shoulder their repatriation expenses by Nov. 27, 2017.

The seven workers did not accept IPI's offer, as they believe it was not enough.

On the same day Frink's letter was delivered, Metro Time LLC, owner of the building that houses the workers, issued a letter that informed them that they would be evicted from the premises 30 days after Nov. 20, 2017.

IPI has been providing humanitarian support for the workers despite the lack of legal obligation to do so.

The workers said in their statement that they feel "very hurt" and that the whole situation was "extremely unfair."

"When we see the beautiful casino—which each of us expended our own hands, our own sweat to build—hosting a grand film festival, or the Asian Supermodel Contest, we actually have a feeling of pride. But, thinking of how some of us dedicated four months of our lives to that building, and have now been without work for eight months as we wait to be paid our legal wage, we feel very hurt," the statement specified.

"We are simply asking for the same compensation received by the people who worked alongside us on the casino," the statement read, adding that the workers merely wanted to be paid the minimum wage and overtime according to CNMI law as well as liquidated damages due to the delay of their wages and reimbursement for their recruitment fees.

A previous statement from the CNMI DOL specified that the calculations of the Chinese worker wages were derived from evidence gathered from their investigation. The offer was based off the CNMI minimum wage.

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| CIVIC SPORT | HU231449 | WHITE | $3,500 |
| HRV EX 2WD | HM716374 | SILVER | $3,000 |
| HRV EX 2WD | HM714229 | BLACK | $3,500 |
| HRV EX AWD | SOLD | BLACK | $3,000 |
| ACCORD SPORT | HA192138 | STEEL | $4,000 |
| RIDGELINE RT FWD | HB007371 | STEEL | $5,000 |

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| | STOCK # | COLOR | DISCOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|
| ESCAPE S FWD | HUB70690 | SILVER | $4,000 |
| MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE | SOLD | RED | $4,000 |
| F150 XL 2WD | GKF37860 | WHITE | $4,000 |
| F150 XL 2WD | HKC68426 | WHITE | $4,000 |
| F150 XL 2WD | HKC68428 | WHITE | $5,000 |
| F150 XLT SPORT | SOLD | RED | $6,000 |
| EXPLORER XLT SPORT | HGC16261 | BLACK | $4,000 |
| EXPLORER XLT 4WD | GGB38168 | WHITE | $6,000 |

### NISSAN

| | STOCK # | COLOR | DISCOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|
| ROGUE S FWD | HW130762 | BLUE | $3,000 |
| ROGUE SPORT S 2WD | HW015525 | SILVER | $3,000 |
| QUEST SV FWD | H9170425 | WHITE | $4,000 |
| FRONTIER SV 4WD | HN762025 | WHITE | $4,000 |
| ALTIMA SV FWD | HC126488 | SILVER | $4,000 |
| PATHFINDER S 2WD | HC672614 | WHITE | $5,000 |
| TITAN SV 4WD | HN549603 | SILVER | $6,000 |
| ARMADA SV 4WD | H9503293 | SILVER | $6,000 |

### KIA

| | STOCK # | COLOR | DISCOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|
| SOUL LX FWD | SOLD | SILVER | $2,000 |
| SOUL LX FWD | H7497104 | ORANGE | $2,000 |
| SOUL LX FWD | G7871787 | GREEN | $2,500 |
| RIO FWD | G6591553 | RED | $2,500 |
| RIO LX FWD | H6034826 | YELLOW | $3,000 |
| SPORTAGE LX 2WD | H7293412 | RED | $3,500 |
| SPORTAGE EX 2WD | H7111888 | BLUE | $4,000 |
| CADENZA PREMIUM | G5200547 | GRAY | $5,000 |

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See dealer for details regarding the Joeten customer checklist. Some conditions apply.

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2017 Honda HR-V LX 2WD MT retail price $21,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of $335.29 or $154.75 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year.
2017 Honda Civic LX retail price $21,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of $335.29 or $154.75 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year.

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

# JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2017

**Opening date: December 11, 2017** **Closing date: December 29, 2017**

Positions:
(1) Mechanic-II (Saipan)
(3) Electrician (Saipan)
(1) BHS Technician-I (Saipan)
(1) ARFF General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
(1) Custodial/Maintenance-I (Rota)
(1) CADD Operator (Saipan)
(1) IT Specialist (Saipan)
(1) Equipment Operator-I (Saipan)
(3) General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
(1) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(1) Procurement Clerk (Saipan)
(1) General Maintenance-II (Rota-Seaport)
(1) Staff Attorney (Saipan)

Employment Applications and the Position Descriptions, containing detailed information on qualifications for the above positions, shall be picked up and submitted to one of the following offices from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ChST, except on holidays:

- **Saipan: CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport;**
- **Tinian: CPA Administration Office, West Tinian International Airport;**
- **Rota: CPA Administration Office, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport (Rota).**

A printable copy of the application and position descriptions may also be downloaded at www.cpa.gov.mp.

The Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original official recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. The vacancies may require a written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, a 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. **All applications and required documents must be submitted to either one of the CPA Administration Offices on Saipan, Tinian or Rota (as shown above) no later than 5:00 p.m. ChST on Friday, December 29, 2017.**

For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or evelyn.sablan@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6590 or 6588.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
**Executive Director**


# Hotel employee arrested for DUI

A hotel employee was arrested for DUI on Thursday after he was allegedly tested with a blood alcohol level of .280 percent, which is over the legal limit of .08 percent when his vehicle collided with another vehicle.

The auto accident occurred at the traffic light of the MSV Building in Chalan Kanoa at the intersection of Beach Road and Tun Segundo.

Franklin S. Fujihira was driving a 2004 gold Mitsubishi Outlander with two passengers. One passenger refused treatment while a second passenger was admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center for severe injuries and currently in the Intensive Care Unit.

The driver of the 2015 white Toyota Prius along with two passengers were transported to CHC where they were treated and released with minor injuries.

Both vehicles were heading south in the inner lane on Beach Road. The Mitsubishi was traveling at a higher speed than the posted 35 miles-per hour speed limit when it struck the Prius from behind.

The police report stated that Fujihira and the two passengers are employees of Saipan World Resort. The co-workers attended their employee Christmas party earlier in the evening. After the party, the co-workers relocated to Susupe Beach Park.

They were believed to have consumed alcoholic beverages at both locations.

The DPS is conducting an investigation on the case. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

# Registration ongoing for NMC's Spring Semester

Northern Marianas College is reminding those interested in advancing their education or professional career that registration for the College's Spring Semester, which begins in January, is currently ongoing until Jan. 12, 2017.

Those who have not applied for admission can do so by submitting an admissions application by Dec. 31, 2017. Applications for admission and other forms may be picked up at NMC's Office of Admissions & Records located in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus, or may be downloaded from www.marianas.edu.

Supporting documents (i.e. transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of a valid photo I.D.) must be turned in within 60 calendar days of submitting the admission application.

New students are required to take the math and English placement tests; the placement test dates are listed at www.marianas.edu. New and readmitted students must also attend a student orientation in order to register for courses. Note other important dates below:

**SPRING 2018 DATES**

- Dec. 31 NMC Spring 2018 Admission Application Deadline (for new and readmitted students)
- Jan. 8 Student Orientation for New and Returning Students (time & location TBA)
- Jan. 9 Student Orientation for New and Returning Students (time & location TBA)
- Jan. 8-12 Late Registration/Advising Period
- Jan. 16 First Day of Class for Spring 2018

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management; associate degrees business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6772 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***


**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director

# INVITATION FOR BIDS
## CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1

### Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

*This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.*

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **171 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 12, 2018** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). ***Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.***

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 29, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer – via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**
**Executive Director**

**MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.**
**Purchasing Officer**



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director

# INVITATION FOR BIDS
## CUC-IFB-18-004

### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS
### (Revised December 13, 2017)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

*CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".*

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-18-004, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 26, 2018,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.*

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7).

*Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders shall comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 10, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org; Joseph Crisostimo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostimo@cucgov.org; and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**
**Executive Director**

**MANNY B. SABLAN**
**Purchasing Officer**

# Ben Babauta awarded island's only bingo license

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The only bingo license on island has been awarded to Vicente "Ben" Babauta for $18,000.

Bingo has long been a staple game in the Commonwealth community especially among adults and the elderly.

Unfortunately, the Saipan Mayor's Office is only allowed, legally, to award one bingo-operating license and it was awarded to Babauta.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Aptang, Babauta was the highest bidder and his license became effective last Dec. 6.

Babauta's license will be valid for up to five years. His license would also allow him to set up bingo parlors anywhere he pleases and he it also allows him to set up as many bingo parlors as he pleases.

Babauta

Apatang said the response they got from Babauta was all positive and Babauta is extremelyexcited to start setting up his bingo parlors.

Babauta will also be the only individual who can run bingo operations in any public setting or event, but will pay 25 percent more than any other concession stand.

For the Liberation Day festival, Babauta is allowed to operate bingo games, but he must pay his required concession fee to the festival organizers.

Apatang said it's been long awaited and now, there is finally an individual who is responsible for all the bingo affairs on island.

Babauta is the highest bidder among four other individuals and is obligated to pay the winning bid amount annually.

KOREAN SWEET
PERSIMMON FESTIVAL
Free Sampling & Dart Play with Free Persimmon
Where : New XO Market (Dec 22, Dec 29)
Twin's Dandan Supermarket (Dec 23, Dec 30)
· Dart Play Promotion valid for a limited period of time (Dec 22, Dec 23).
· The promotion will begin at 5:00pm.
· We reserve the right to limit quantities or while supplies last.
LOSING
2EA OF PERSIMMON

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION
PROMO
TAKE HOME OUR GRAND PRIZE:
...THREE...TWO...ONE...PRO!
This Holiday Season... Saipan Computer Services will turn you into a PRO! Be PROactive, PROficient, PROductive, and Be a PROgressive PROfessional! Join our Customer Appreciation Raffle PRO-mo...
AND WIN:
Fitbit Flex 2 wristband
The Lenovo Yoga Tab3 Tablet
Beats by Dr. Dre Solo3 Wireless Headphones
A GoPRO Hero Session
Sony Destiny 2 Playstation 4 PRO
The Apple iPad PRO
HP PROdesk 400 mini pc
The Apple 13.3" MacBook PRO
2017 Customer Appreciation Raffle PRO-mo runs from now until December 30, 2017.
Our simple way of saying...
THANK YOU, CNMI.
Saipan Computer Services...
SERVICE BEYOND THE SALE
IDEAL SIGNS
SCS Saipan Computer Services
Service beyond the sale...
THE MICROSOFT SURFACE PRO BUNDLED WITH...
A PYLE PRO HOME THEATRE SMART WIFI PROJECTOR AND
A PAIR OF BOSE SOUNDLINK REVOLVE BLUETOOTH PRO SPEAKER
A COMPLETE MOBILE HOME THEATRE PACKAGE FOR THE PRO!
Every $25 PURCHASE entitles you to a Raffle Ticket. And get a $50 REBATE CERTIFICATE for every purchase of a Desktop or Laptop Computer.
Raffle Draw on January 2, 2018. Some restrictions may apply.

# Local concerns on troop store purchases to be addressed

Following concerns from eligible military card holders, mainly from Rota and Tinian, about limitations or restrictions on certain products from the Saipan troop store in Puerto Rico, the Office of the Governor initiated talks with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) to address these concerns.

Civil Military Liaison Office executive director Stanley T. Iakopo recently arranged a meeting with regional AAFES officials to discuss existing options for Rota and Tinian cardholders.

"There were concerns brought up by veterans, retirees, reservists, and dependents from Rota and Tinian about the hardship they face when traveling to Saipan to purchase goods at the local army troop store. Currently, there are limitations on certain items for purchase, which makes it inconvenient and expensive for military residents on Rota and Tinian, who first have to fly into Saipan and then be subject to purchasing limited quantities. The travel and distance for our military families in Rota and Tinian should not be subject to this," Iakopo said.

At the meeting with AAFES, the Office of the Governor made a request to lift the limitations on the number of items a veteran, retiree, reservist, or dependent from Rota or Tinian can buy. AAFES officials were amenable to this proposed change, subject to approval by military officials in Hawaii. As talks continue to formalize the exceptions to the policy, he noted that military cardholders from Rota and Tinian in the meantime can write a letter if there is a demonstrated circumstance to buy more items.

"While we continue to formalize the policy exceptions, there is a letter in lieu of a form that members must send to the store in order to purchase larger quantities of items than the limited amount for weddings, parties, or for supply since they live on Rota and Tinian. The letter will be sent to the local unit commander, which is then sent to Fort Shafter in Honolulu for approval. The Rota and Tinian communities are not fully aware of this option, but the AAFES team led by Ms. Karin Duncan, Exchange PAC Region SVP assured us that she will advocate and support this option for our folks on Rota and Tinian and that local staff will be made aware of it," Iakopo said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres added that one of the primary goals of the Civil Military Liaison Office is to advocate for military families and work with the Department of Defense on addressing local concerns.

"The discussions that were made that day is part of the larger goal to advocate for the concerns of our men and women in uniform, our military families, and our veterans. I've instructed Stanley and Bruce [Camacho] from our Civil Military Liaison Office to continue looking into these concerns. We're currently pursuing discussions with DoD to expand the inventory for the commissary as well. Our office will continue to provide updates as we move forward," Torres said.

For any questions regarding this matter, contact Iakopo or Bruce M. Camacho at (670) 237-2200. ***(PR)***

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives Notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Board of Education Conference Room, Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan.**

## AGENDA[1]

**I. Preliminary**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. October 25, 2017 Special Board Executive Session Meeting
   b. October 30, 2017 Special Board Meeting
   c. November 20, 2017 Special Board Meeting

**II. Public Comments[2]**

**III. Reports**
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. CIP
   b. FPA
   c. ISA
   d. LIA
   e. SARC
   f. SICPP
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others
      i. PSS Events for December

**IV. Unfinished Business**

**V. New Business**
1. Early Intervention Program State Performance Plan FFY 2013 – 2016 and Annual Performance Report FFY 2018.
2. Special Education Program Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Performance Report
3. PSS Revised Organizational Chart
4. Restructure Program Manager/Coordinator Position to Directorship for the following:
   a. Child Nutrition Program Manager
   b. Pupil Transportation Program Manager
   c. Career and Technical Education Coordinator
   d. Chamorro/Carolinian Language Heritage Studies (CCLHS) Program Coordinator
5. Certification and Licensure Matters
   a. CLO Report No. 2017- 014

**I. Executive Session[3]**
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

**VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**

**VIII. Adjournment**

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**OPERATIONS BUILDING DEMOLITION AND PARKING EXPANSION**
**PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-005-17**
**DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES**

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for Design-Build services for the demolition and removal of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's old operations building, installation of new chain-link fence connecting the existing perimeter fence at the location where the structure is to be removed, and the design and construction of a new commercial asphalt cement parking lot expansion (16 stalls) meeting all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations, located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Operations Building Demolition/Parking Lot Expansion – Design/Build Services"***. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. D-B Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (see Appendix A in SOW); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) CALENDAR DAYS.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00)** shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the CPA Engineering.

The Scope of Work (SOW) and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Total cost for design and construction | 60% |
| 2. | Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff | 15% |
| 3. | Experience of the firm on similar or related projects | 15% |
| 4. | Project Approach | 10% |

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 7, 2017

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**
Division of Fish & Wildlife
Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Lower Base, P.O. Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

## SMILING COVE MARINA TRANSIENT DOCK PUBLIC MEETING

**This is to inform the public and all Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock users, that there will be a meeting open to the public, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 6:00 pm.**

**The purpose of this meeting is to allow for questions and answers related to the new process at the Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock. Discussions will specifically address proposed regulations, fee schedules & assigning loading/unloading schedules for Commercial users.**

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
## MVA-RFP-18-2008

**For: HAPPY CHILDREN IN PARADISE CAMPAIGN**
**20th ANNIVERSARY SAIPAN-DA BACKPACKS**

Submission /Closing Date: **January 22, 2018** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **December 18, 2017, at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan,** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by January 22, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Ms. Brenda Repeki in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to brepeki@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **January 22, 2018.**

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Ms. Brenda Repeki at brepeki@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on January 5, 2018.**

/s/ Christopher J. Nelson
Acting Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

# Military to conduct training at W-17, FDM

**ASAN, Guam**—The military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) during the following dates and times:

- Dec. 18 from 8:30am to 1:30pm
- Dec. 19 from 1-5pm
- Dec. 20 from 9:30am to 9:30pm
- Dec. 21 from 7:30am to 5pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Dec. 18 from 8:30am to 1:30 pm
- Dec. 19 from 8:30am to 5pm
- Dec. 20 from 9:30am to 9:30pm
- Dec. 21 from 7:30am to 5pm

It is recommended the general public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10"N/144° 30"E, 13° 10"N/144° 42"E, 12° 50"N/144° 45"E, 11° 00"N/144° 45"E, 11° 00"N/143° 00"E, 11° 45"N/143° 00"E, 12° 50"N/144° 30"E.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. Farallon de Medinilla, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, supports aircrew combat readiness training.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. ***(PR)***


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**CHRISTMAS EVE BRUNCH**
24 DECEMBER 2017, 10:30 AM through 2:00PM

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Traditional Christmas Eve brunch buffet inclusive of sparkling wine, wine, beer, eggnog and Saipan Brewing apple cider
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$40 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

**CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER**
24 DECEMBER 2017, 6:00 PM through 9:00PM

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Traditional Christmas Eve dinner buffet inclusive of beer, wine, iced tea, soft drink and eggnog
Price: $60 per person, $30 for children
$40 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

*Miyako*
Authentic Japanese dinner buffet inclusive of free flowing Asahi beer
Price: $60 per person, $30 for children
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*Giovanni's*
Gourmet six course Christmas set menu including an aperitivo spritz
Price: $80 per person, $30 for children
$60 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

*Teppanyaki*
Set menu and two seating times at 5:30PM or 8:00PM
Price: $120 per person, $45 for children
$100 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

**CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH**
25 DECEMBER 2017, 10:30 AM through 2:00 PM

*Giovanni's and Kili Café & Terrace*
Grand Christmas Day brunch buffet inclusive of sparkling wine, wine, beer, eggnog, and Saipan Brewing apple cider
Price: $60 per person, $30 for children
$40 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

**CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**
25 DECEMBER 2017, 6:00 PM through 9:00 PM

*Kili Café &Terrace*
Grand Christmas Day dinner buffet inclusive of beer, wine, iced tea, soft drink, eggnog
Price: $60 per person, $30 for children
$40 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

*Teppanyaki*
Exclusive dinner set menu. Two seating times at 5:30PM or 8:00PM
Price: $120 per person, $45 for children
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Christmas Day Brunch (11:00 AM through 12:00 PM)
Christmas Day Dinner (6:00 PM through 7:00 PM)

HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN

# Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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## EDITORIAL

# The evolving threat of Islamic State

Were Akayed Ullah a more accomplished suicide bomber, we might today be writing about the horrible repercussions of mass casualties in New York City's subway just days before Christmas. Fortunately, Ullah's makeshift bomb failed to fully detonate; he was most seriously injured in his own attack.

"I did it for Islamic State," Ullah reportedly told investigators.

You may ask: What remains of Islamic State?

In recent weeks the U.S. and its partners have crushed the last remnants of Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria. The terrorists' dream of an empire lies in shambles.

We had hoped that the defeat of Islamic State on the battlefield would demolish the group's recruiting appeal. Unfortunately not. Its violent message still inspires willing wannabes via cyberspace. One British counterterrorism official warns that there is "incitement to attack through the internet, 24/7."

There's much more work to be done before the U.S. can declare VI Day.

There is progress. The U.S. has choked off potential terror recruits' efforts to gain weapons training overseas. Instead, Islamic State devotees have turned to tutorials on encrypted communications channels, The New York Times reports.

The recent subway tunnel bombing was the third terrorist attack in New York City in about 15 months. Truck attacks, suicide bombings — more common in European capitals and the Middle East — are now moving up the list of potential threats to U.S. cities.

Two reasons:

These attacks take little expertise, planning or money.

They're nearly impossible for law enforcement to detect and thwart.

Eradicating Islamic State on the military battlefield may prove easier than expunging its call to arms on the internet. Cyberspace's borders are infinite; authorities may play whack-a-mole against websites that hoist the banner of hate.

But let's remember that just two years ago, the ground war against Islamic State raged. Fighters from 90 countries poured into Iraq and Syria. Former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell wrote in Time magazine in 2015: "The nature and significance of the threat flow from the fact that (Islamic State) is — all at the same time — a terrorist group, a state and a revolutionary political movement. We have never faced an adversary like it."

Islamic State is no longer a state. But the threat evolves. Terrorists routed from one place regroup elsewhere. Islamic State may be poised to grow in Central Asia. Authorities also warn that thousands of former fighters may be returning from battle to set up shop in parts of Africa.

In a related security issue, President Donald Trump, like his predecessor, seeks to bolster America's prowess on the electronic battlefield — not just against Islamic State but all terror groups. This includes eavesdropping on terrorist phone calls overseas, sweeping up emails and texts. The

*See ISLAMIC on Next Page*

# Pence visits Jerusalem at Christmas but brings no peace

**By TRUDY RUBIN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

*Trudy Rubin is a columnist for the* Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may email her at trubin@phillynews.com.*

**JERUSALEM**—Palestinian Christians lit the giant Christmas tree in the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem on Thursday. The annual Christmas Bazaar, its booths filled with sweets and carved olive wood gifts, opened as usual at the Jerusalem International YMCA (designed in the 1920s by the American architect of the Empire State Building), one of the few places in this divided city where Israeli Jews and Arabs mingle socially.

But the veneer of holiday normality barely hid the tension simmering here since President Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital early this month, making no distinction between the Jewish sector and the Arab neighborhoods Israel annexed in 1967.

Meantime, Vice President Pence, whose visit to Jerusalem this week was supposed to highlight the plight of the Mideast's Christians, has canceled his planned visit to the Church of the Nativity (the governor of the Bethlehem told him he'd be unwelcome). Pence, who postponed the trip so he could vote on the tax bill, has no current plan to visit Jerusalem churches, since church leaders urged Trump not to change the U.S. position on Jerusalem.

So it's worth asking what exactly was changed by the president's announcement.

Two things haven't changed. First, Jerusalem is, and always was, the Israeli capital. This fact has not been recognized by other nations because Israel annexed the Arab parts of the city, whose fate would have to be resolved by negotiations if peace talks ever restart.

As far as many Israelis are concerned, this whole Jerusalem affair is a yawn. At a Shabbat dinner in the coastal city of Zichron Yaacov with Israeli Jewish friends — including two grandchildren serving in the army — the consensus was that Trump made a lot of trouble for no reason. "Why did he have to throw a stink bomb into Jerusalem?" I was asked.

The second thing that hasn't changed is that ordinary Palestinians — and their leadership — are weary and wary of another uprising.

On Friday, I stood by the plaza at the Old City's Damascus Gate as (mostly peaceful) worshipers poured forth after praying at the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Small clusters of youths, and a few women, challenged the Israeli police who were lined up with guns and helmets above the plaza and gave chase.

However, the Palestinian reaction to Trump so far — while rhetorically strong — has been relatively limited on the ground, with Days of Rage bringing out modest amounts of demonstrators.

Over and over I heard from ordinary Palestinians in Jerusalem and Ramallah that they distrust their leaders, who are still conferring among themselves on how to react and (mostly) calling for nonviolence. Moreover, Palestinians feel they have been betrayed by Saudi Arabia and Egypt, who have strategically allied with Israel against Iran. This leaves them isolated.

Yet this uneasy stasis could blow up if Israeli officials aren't careful, especially if there is an incident involving holy Muslim sites.

Two important things have changed, however, one involving Pence and one Trump.

Given Pence's concern for Arab Christians, it's ironic that U.S. recognition of Jerusalem may be harming them more than it has helped them.

"Most Christian Palestinians are caught in the middle," I was told by Franciscan Father Peter Vasko, president of the Franciscan Foundation of the Holy Land and a Brooklyn native. (A longtime Jerusalem resident, he has guided President Trump and previous U.S. presidents around the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.)

Israeli soldiers look at Palestinian Christians as Arabs first, he says, and Palestinian nationalists see them as linked to the West. Meantime, political uncertainty undercuts their career prospects.

"That's why they are leaving," Vasko says. There are only 9,000 Christians left in Jerusalem and 35,000 in the West Bank. Thirty-five years ago, Bethlehem was 70 percent Christian and 30 percent Muslim but the percentages are now the opposite. (The Franciscan Foundation offers full scholarships to talented Christian youths to study at local universities, giving them a leg up.)

Trump's announcement on Jerusalem squeezes Christian lead-

*See PENCE on Next Page*

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# Net neutrality regulation: Repeal and do not replace

**By JAMES L. GATTUSO**
The Heritage Foundation

*James Gattuso is a Senior Research Fellow in Regulatory Policy at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).*

They finally did it. After six months of debate, during which it received more than 23 million public comments, the Federal Communications Commission voted on Dec. 14 to eliminate the network neutrality rules it imposed on broadband network operators during the Obama era.

The vote is a chapter in a story that goes back to the Clinton administration, when FCC chairman Bill Kennard adopted a policy of "light touch' regulation of broadband services. Over the next decade, the FCC tried three times to abandon this market-based policy and to replace it with heavy-handed network neutrality rules.

The first two attempts at this were rebuffed by the courts, which found the FCC had not shown it had authority to regulate broadband services. The third try, adopted in 2015, passed judicial muster. It is this rule that has now been repealed.

Network neutrality can be roughly defined as the principle that a broadband network transporting data from content providers to consumers should do so at the same rate and manner for all users. The 2015 rules tried to enforce this principle by imposing three "bright line" prohibitions on broadband providers: blocking content, "throttling" (slowing) uploads and downloads, and providing prioritized access for a fee.

This sounds fair enough, until you look at what such government-enforced equality means in real life:

■ First, the ban on "blocking" could include charging prices that are unaffordable to some, thus blocking them from services.

■ Second, throttling – despite its violent connotation — is simply the reduction of download rates for certain users at certain times — a useful tool to discourage "bandwidth hogs" from slowing Internet speeds available to other nearby users.

■ Third, "paid prioritization" or more simply, discounted and premium service, is common in just about every functioning market in the U.S. economy. Moreover, the ban on prioritization calls into question the use of pricing to allocate economic resources.

The ultimate goal of all the "bright line" bans seems to have been ending not just market abuses on the Internet, but ending the use of markets and pricing on the Internet, a politically radical – and economically dangerous – proposition.

Despite the dangers presented by these prohibitions, neutrality advocates have pulled out all the rhetorical stops to keep broadband ISPs regulated by the five members of the FCC. The predictions of life without neutrality are almost cartoonishly grim: Competition, choice and innovation will not survive without government limits on broadband ISPs, they warn. Without FCC controls, big cable and phone companies squeeze innovative start-ups from the market. Political discourse will also be dramatically curtailed, as the voices of anyone disfavored by ISPs are stifled. This, they conclude, presents a threat to the very survival of our democracy.

These dire predictions however are not supported by any facts or any theory. As a first matter, it is important to recognize that this is not a simple fight between big guys and little guys. Some of the largest companies on earth, including Google, Amazon and Microsoft, have long and vociferously agitated in favor of neutrality rules. Conversely, firms subjected to neutrality restrictions include firms such as Sprint and T-Mobile, neither of which are in a position to bully anyone, not least a Google or a Microsoft.

Similarly, unregulated ISPs would not be empowered to drive political enemies off the web. And were they to try, consumers would simply switch to provider that did not do so.

In fact, if ISPs could exercise market power in this way, why have they not done so already? The just-repealed rules are only two years old. The entire history of the Internet before 2015 took place without any enforceable neutrality regulation. And that history is a story of constant innovation and growth – not one of monopoly and political censorship.

Lastly, it should be noted that elimination of neutrality rules does not leave the broadband marketplace unregulated. Rather, the marketplace for broadband will now be subject to the same rules that apply to most other sectors of the economy: antitrust law. Regulation through competition law – while not perfect — can provide an important backstop should any anti-competitive practices take hold.

Proponents of neutrality regulation paint a terrifying picture of life without FCC rules that prohibit non-neutral practices. The real threat to the Internet comes not from too little government interference in its management, but from too much. The FCC's elimination of the Obama network neutrality regulations is a welcome acknowledgement of that fact.

## PENCE

*From Page 10*

ers between ties to the West and local political pressures, leaving them exposed.

A second key change: Trump's shift in U.S. policy boosts those in the Israeli government who want to change the physical status of Jerusalem, and ensure that the city will be excluded from any future peace negotiations.

Israel has been building new neighborhoods around Jerusalem on West Bank land annexed to the city that have almost cut it off from its West Bank hinterland. Knesset bills are pending to annex Jewish settlements on the West Bank in order to increase Jerusalem's population and exclude Arab neighborhoods from the city.

Danny Seidemann, a noted expert on these developments, believes Trump's decision may inspire Israeli politicians to revisit building a new housing development on a land parcel known as E1, which would rule out any prospective Palestinian state linking up with Jerusalem. He told me, "Jerusalem is more contested than ever before."

Perhaps the most important change precipitated by Trump's move is that it has provoked the Palestinians to (probably) exclude any U.S. role as mediator. Without Jerusalem, no peace talks can resume. This probably kills the already minuscule chance that Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner and lawyer friend Jason Greenblatt will come up with "the ultimate deal."

Greenblatt will be arriving during Pence's visit. But Palestinian leaders, who won't meet the vice president, will probably avoid Greenblatt. As Christmas arrives, the Trump decision does nothing to move the Holy Land closer toward peace.

## ISLAMIC

*From Page 10*

law that allows such surveillance, Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Amendments Act, expires at year's end. We urge Congress to renew it without delay.

Terror groups change tactics to evade law enforcement. America can't holster any of its anti-terror weapons. A terrible thought: The next bomber, in New York or another American city, may not be so inept.

©2017 *Chicago Tribune*

# Jones won in Alabama because black men and women turned out in unprecedented numbers.

**By JOSHUA GOODMAN**
Los Angeles Times

*Joshua Goodman is a political consultant and Democratic Party activist based in Burbank. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Tuesday's stunning victory for Doug Jones, Democrat of Alabama, is, for many pundits and party leaders, a vindication of an opinion they have held since Donald Trump took the stage at the 2016 Republican convention, and which was not shaken even by his defeat of Hillary Clinton: that the key to Democratic victory is in appealing to the better angels of conservatives, focusing on the ethical shortcomings or lack of decorum shown by Republican candidates like Roy Moore or President Trump.

Even a cursory look at the numbers out of Alabama, however, proves this theory has no basis in reality.

Jones did not win because Republicans en masse chose "country over party," as Republican Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona said when he donated all of $100 to Jones.

Rather, he won because black voters turned out in unprecedented numbers for an election of this kind. According to exit polls, the 2017 Alabama electorate was 30 percent black. In 2012, with President Obama at the top of the ticket, it was 28 percent black. Wha and Sen.Moore.

Millennial Alabamians appear to have voted for Jones by a margin of at least 22 percentage points. But a GenForward survey released earlier this year found that white millennials hold views largely in line with older white Americans. The reason millennials overwhelmingly support Democrats in 2017 is not that the average millennial is further left than the average baby boomer — it is because the average millennial is far more likely to be a person of color than the average baby boomer.

White conservatives did not flip to Jones in a significant way. And even if they had, that is not a sustainable electoral model, as Democrats will eventually have to run against candidates who, unlike Moore and Trump, have a moral compass and a vague sense of decency. Jones won because white conservatives stayed home, while black liberals and leftists turned out.

These are the facts the Democratic Party must learn to continue to win around the country. The party's future is not in appealing to "the suburbs of Philadelphia," as Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer of New York predicted in July of 2016, but in giving nonwhite voters a compelling reason to continue to support Democrats.

That means understanding the intersection of issues facing communities of color, not just paying lip service to criminal justice reform or showing up in a church right before an election.

In Alabama, where voters must show identification at the polls, the state closed ID-issuing motor vehicle offices in multiple majority black counties. Voters overcame this structural barrier to elect Jones, and the Democratic Party can repay them by working to remove it.

The Democratic Party cannot take its voters for granted, and must push a platform of real economic and social justice. It must work actively to dismantle white supremacy and systemic racism, and it must take a strong stance against voter suppression tactics that seek to silence nonwhite voters. Any of these actions would be more beneficial than fretting over whether a Democratic candidate is working hard enough to appear pro-business, post-partisan or moderate on issues such as reproductive choice.

Jones made his career by standing up to racists, putting Klansmen on trial for the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., that killed four young girls. His commitment to racial justice is clear. But the Democratic Party still must actively recruit and promote candidates whose life experiences match those of the voters the party represents.

We cannot continue to ask black voters to turn out in record numbers for candidates with a learning curve on the issues that matter to them. When Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders were asked at a 2016 primary debate "whether black lives matter or all lives matter," both candidates delivered the correct answer. ("Black lives matter.") But I'm sure I wasn't the only progressive Democrat to hold my breath, not at all certain they'd gotten the message.

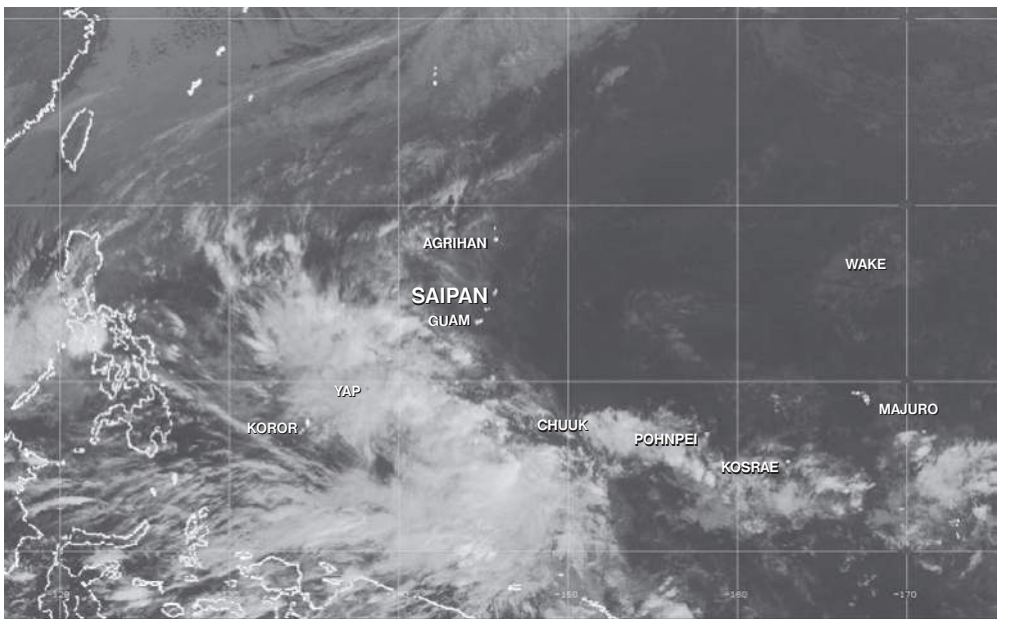
This is the lesson of the Alabama upset. The Democratic Party doesn't need to win over people with wildly different values — it doesn't need Bill Kristol, or Jeff Flake, or George W. Bush — it needs to give its base a reason to vote. The base of the Democratic Party is Americans of color, and the party can win by showing that it understands that.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph. | Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲88° ▼78° | ▲88° ▼78° | ▲88° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 7:10 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models have been struggling with 97W, with rather large run-to-run variations in how they handle it. But the 12Z runs of the GFS and ECMWF are in fairly good agreement in stretching 97W out into a NW-SE trough over the next couple of days, which looks reasonable. This reduces the expected winds a little for the Marianas the next few days, and this is reflected in the forecast. Otherwise, weather remains the same, with isolated showers through the forecast period, and breezy conditions Tuesday and Wednesday.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Showers | 86° / 79° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 83° / 77° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 86° / 81° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 85° / 81° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 75° / 63° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 39° / 19° |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | 66° / 52° |
| Honolulu | Showers | 81° / 70° |
| London | Cloudy | 46° / 37° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 73° / 50° |
| Manila | Rain | 84° / 75° |
| Melbourne | Showers | 86° / 63° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 80° / 71° |
| New York | Showers | 47° / 38° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 52° / 36° |
| Paris | Showers | 48° / 39° |
| Busan | Mostly Sunny | 46° / 34° |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | 52° / 32° |
| Salem | Showers | 65° / 48° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 62° / 45° |
| Seoul | Sunny | 28° / 14° |
| Tokyo | Sunny | 55° / 36° |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 57° / 39° |

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 1:47 AM | LOW TIDE | -0.25 |
| 8:41 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.82 |
| 2:09 PM | LOW TIDE | 1.14 |
| 6:57 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.85 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:36 AM | 5:50 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:37 AM | 5:50 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:37 AM | 5:51 PM |
| Thursday | 6:38 AM | 5:51 PM |
| Friday | 6:38 AM | 5:52 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:16 am | 5:54 pm | - |
| Tuesday | 7:05 am | 6:41 pm | - |
| Wednesday | 7:53 am | 7:29 pm | - |
| Thursday | 8:39 am | 8:18 pm | - |
| Friday | 9:24 am | 9:08 pm | - |

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6394 | 4:15am | 5:05am | Daily |
| UA6392 | 8:40am | 9:30am | Daily |
| UA6391 | 1:30pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota |
| UA6390 | 2:20pm | 3:10pm | 2, 3, 6 |
| UA6398 | 6:05pm | 6:55pm | Daily |
| UA6396 | 9:50pm | 10:40pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6391 | 1:30pm | 2:05pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6391 | 2:35pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL297 | 4:15pm | 7:05pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:10am | 6:10am | 1, 7 |
| 7C3451 | 4:00am | 7:05am | 4, 5 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 2:00am | 6:05am | 2, 3, 4 |
| OZ626 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| TW308 | 2:35am | 6:20am | 6, 7 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:40am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:45am | 8:30am | Daily |
| LJ652 | 3:40am | 7:30am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3401 | 4:00pm | 7:45pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:30am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD396 | 7:00am | 10:25am | 1 |
| JD396 | 4:50pm | 8:15pm | 4 |

**SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| XP889 | 4:45pm | 10:30pm | 3, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:35am | 3, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626/701 | 2:10am | 10:55am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/701 | 2:50am | 10:55am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA6394/191 | 4:15am | 9:00am | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA6394/PR111 | 4:15am | 8:10am | 7 via GUM |
| UA6394/PR111 | 4:15am | 9:20am | 1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM |
| UA6398/183 | 6:05pm | 9:40pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| UA6398/183 | 6:05pm | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA6398/193 | 6:05pm | 11:50pm | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HX077 | 2:00am | 5:00am | 1, 4 |
| OZ626/721 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/721 | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UO43 | 5:45am | 8:40am | 1, 3, 5, 7 |
| UA6398/159 | 6:05pm | 11:00pm | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6393 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| UA6395 | 7:15am | 8:05am | Daily |
| UA6391 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| UA6390 | 12:10pm | 1:50pm | 2, 3, 6 via Rota |
| UA6397 | 4:45pm | 5:35pm | Daily |
| UA6399 | 8:30pm | 9:20pm | Daily |

**GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6390 | 12:10pm | 12:45pm | 2, 3, 6 |

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6390 | 1:15pm | 1:50pm | 2, 3, 6 |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL298 | 10:30am | 3:00pm | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 | 4 |
| 7C3452 | 9:05pm | 2:10am+1 | 3, 6, 7 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3402 | 9:30am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| TW307 | 7:45pm | 1:00am+1 | 1, 2, 3 |
| OZ625 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| TW307 | 8:05pm | 1:35am+1 | 5, 6 |
| OZ625 | 8:20pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| LJ651 | 9:10pm | 2:40am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | Daily |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8647 | 10:20pm | 4:30am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD395 | 8:10am | 3:30pm | 4 |
| JD395 | 10:05pm | 5:30am+1 | 7 |

**NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| XP888 | 9:35pm | 4:00am+1 | 1, 4, 6 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |

**BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU763 | 4:25pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA182/6395 | 12:40am | 8:05am | 3, 6 via GUM |
| UA190/6397 | 9:55am | 5:35pm | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| OZ702/625 | 12:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/625 | 12:30pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/UA6395 | 10:05pm | 8:05am+1 | 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA192/6395 | 10:30pm | 8:05am+1 | 2, 5 via ROR-GUM |
| UA184/6395 | 10:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |

**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| HX076 | 5:20pm | 12:30am+1 | 3, 7 |
| UO42 | 6:50pm | 1:45am+1 | 7 |
| UO42 | 9:30pm | 4:25am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |
| UA116/6395 | 11:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 7:30AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:30AM | 12:00PM | Daily |
| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 8:15AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 3102 | 1:45PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 3103 | 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:15PM | 12:45PM | Daily |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 1:00PM | 1:30PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily |
| 1202 | 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily |
| 1206 | 12:00PM | 12:15PM | Daily |
| 1207 | 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily |
| 1208 | 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 1209 | 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| 1210 | 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
| 1211 | 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| 1212 | 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily |
| 2103 | 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 2104 | 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily |
| 2105 | 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily |
| 2106 | 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily |
| 2107 | 12:30PM | 12:45PM | Daily |
| 2108 | 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily |
| 2109 | 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily |
| 2110 | 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily |
| 2111 | 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily |
| 2112 | 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily |
| 2113 | 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |

# Trump, Congress praised for authorizing Palau compact deal

**WASHINGTON**—U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke last week thanked President Trump and commended the U.S. Congress for including authorization for the Palau Compact Review Agreement in the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. Signed into law yesterday by the President, the enactment officially authorizes the strategic agreement signed between the United States and Palau governments in 2010.

"The U.S. Insular Areas are on the front lines of North Korean aggression and are an important part of the strategic defense for our nation," said Secretary Zinke. "Authorizing full funding for the agreement is an important element of the Pacific national security strategy to maintain stability in the Western Pacific Region and we look forward to continuing our work with Congress to get this job done. President Trump's strong support for the agreement, the Department's budget request, and Congress' support for it all point to the strategic importance of our U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States. I have served with a number of warriors from the islands and I look forward to visiting the people of Palau in my role as Secretary."

"Finalization of this agreement with Palau is long overdue," said Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech. "Interior, State and Defense have collaborated extensively in support of the Palau Compact Agreement and we look forward to final action from Congress to provide the appropriations necessary to finalize this important U.S. Government commitment to Palau."

President Trump called for $123.9 million to implement the agreement in his proposed budget for FY 2018.

The U.S. Government and Palau signed the agreement in 2010, which proposed continued U.S. financial assistance totaling $229 million through 2024. At the time, full funding for the pact was not authorized. Beginning with FY 2010, subsequent Interior and discretionary appropriations acts have extended annual economic assistance to Palau of approximately $13.1 million a year for a total of $105.2 million in discretionary funds thus far. These funds are provided to assist the Government of Palau in its efforts to advance the well-being of its people and in recognition of the special relationship that exists between the United States and Palau. ***(PR)***

**LUCKY WINNERS** CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Matilde Pangelinan and Emelia L. Amato are the winners of the Flyaway Boyz II Men promotion of IT&E. The prize package includes general admission tickets to see "Boyz II Men Live in Concert!" in Guam, two round-trip tickets (Saipan-Guam), hotel stay at Fiesta Resort & Spa Guam, and an economy vehicle from Hertz Rent A Car.

## Elastomeric Roof Coating promo at Joeten Ace Hardware Susupe

The Department of Public Works, through the Energy Division, in coordination with Joeten Ace Hardware Susupe will be promoting Elastomeric Roof Coating on Saturday, Dec. 23, from 8am to 12pm.

The Energy Star® Elastomeric Roof Coating promotion is buy one 5-Gallon Pail Henry Solar Flex White Rood Coating and get one 5-Gallon Pail Henry Solar Flex White Rood Coating for free with a limit of two purchases per utility account holder on a first come, first served basis.

Energy director Thelma Inos noted that this promotion is only available to residential consumers who must provide a most recent utility billing and must be present to avail to this promotion.

Residents who have their landlord's name on a utility billing must provide lease agreement.

For any reason an account holder is unable to make the purchase, he/she must provide an authorization letter.

Inos adds that making homes more energy efficient with Energy Star® products can help reduce high energy bills, improve comfort, and help to protect the environment.

For questions or information regarding this promotion, contact the Energy Division at 664-4480/4.

Project funding is made possible by a grant from the US Department of Energy-State Energy Program. ***(PR)***

**TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION**
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 21, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

## AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      1) November 30, 2017 [continuation on December 1, 2017] Regular Meeting

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]

III. **REPORTS**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]

VII. **MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB18-DLNR/SEC-029**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 04, 2018 TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "F" MID-SIZE PICK-UP TRUCK 4X4 (FOUR DOORS) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OR PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF DLNR

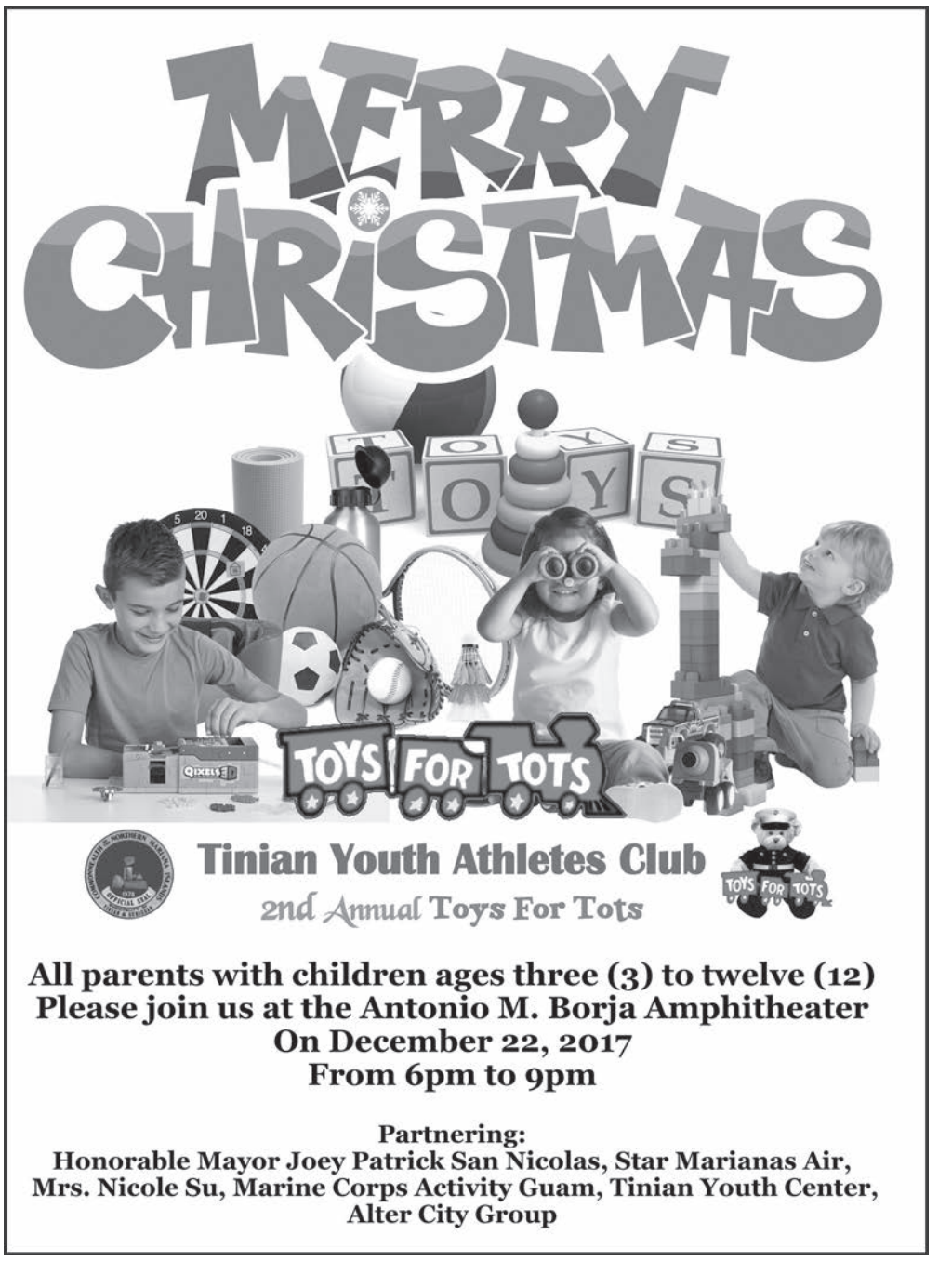
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**
**INVESTIGATOR**

Opening Date: 12/11/17 Closing Date: Continuous
POSITION: Investigator EXAMINATION NO. OPA-17-002

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Gualo Rai. Completed employment application form and pertinent documents must be submitted at the Office of the Public Auditor.

**Office of the Public Auditor**
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481


MERRY CHRISTMAS
TOYS
TOYS FOR TOTS
Tinian Youth Athletes Club
2nd Annual Toys For Tots
All parents with children ages three (3) to twelve (12)
Please join us at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater
On December 22, 2017
From 6pm to 9pm
Partnering:
Honorable Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Star Marianas Air,
Mrs. Nicole Su, Marine Corps Activity Guam, Tinian Youth Center,
Alter City Group

# The 11th Asian Super Model Contest at Imperial Palace

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

2017 Asian Super Model champion is Yue Han of China, second left, bested 26 other top models from 14 countries in a fierce competition that culminated in a sellout finals night at the Imperial Palace grand lobby. Joining her are first runners-up Russia's Ksenia and China's Su Siqi and second runners-up Mili Soni of India, Oh Sebin of Korea, and Kelly Yeap of Malaysia.

2017 Asian Super Model Champaion Yuen Ha owned the ramp.

First runner-up Su Siqi.

Models-contestants strut their Hosa swimsuit during the finals night before a packed grand lobby of Imperial Palace.

The candidates in their NE-Tiger Chinese high end dress at the Imperial Palace.

The 27 countries sent their representatives to Saipan for the 11th edition of the Asian Super Model Contest, which Imperial Pacific International hosted and in partnership with Marianas Visitors Authority and IT&E.

Malaysia's Amreet Kaur stood out in her costume.

BEA CABRERA

The Imperial Pacific Resort lobby was converted into a stage and runway for the 11th Asian Super Model contest.

The model-candidates during their parade of national costumes.

Saipan hosted for the first time the Asian Super Model Contest.

BEA CABRERA

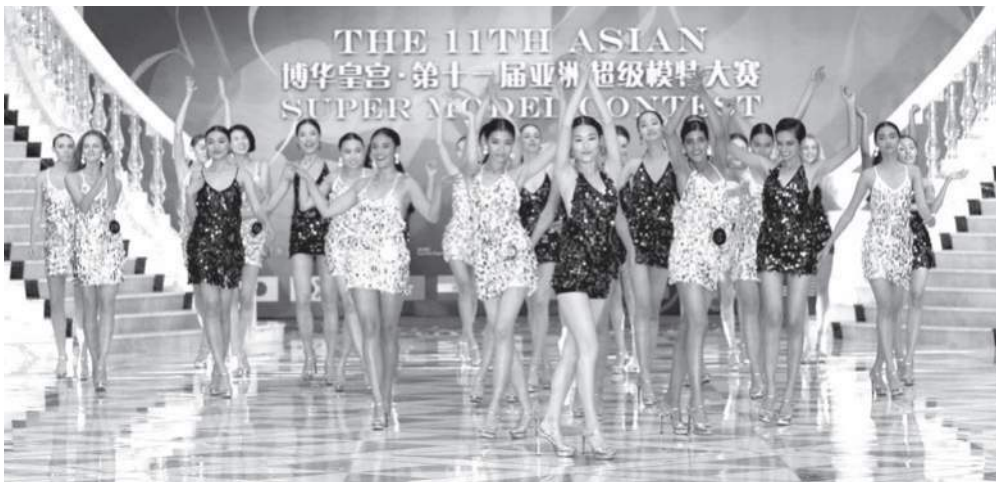
The jury committee of the 11th Asian Super Model contest.

The grand staircase of the cavernous lobby of Imperial Palace provided the perfect setting of the finals night of the 11th Asian Super Model Contest.

The bevy of international models walked during the finals night presentation.

BEA CABRERA

From left, Imperial Pacific Inc. majority stockholder Margaret Cui Lijie, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and first lady Diann Torres.




The 27 international models compete for the coveted crown.

BEA CABRERA

Krea Pineda from the Philippines won the Best Photogenic Award.

BEA CABRERA

First runner-up Su Suqi from China.

BEA CABRERA

The 11th Asian Super Model contest winners, from left, first runners-up Ksenia (Russia) and Su Suqi (China), champion Yue Han (China), second runners-up Kelly Yeap (Malaysia), Milli Sona (India), and Oh Sebin (Korea) with IPI executives and others.

# Business

## Trump defends tax plan, proclaims economy set 'to rock'

AP

President Donald Trump, flanked by Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, left, and Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, right, speaks during a bicameral meeting with lawmakers working on the tax cuts in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Closing in on the first major legislative achievement of his term, President Donald Trump on Saturday defended the Republican tax cut as a good deal for the middle class while boldly suggesting it could lead to explosive economic growth.

The legislation, which the GOP aims to muscle through Congress next week, would lower taxes on the richest Americans. Benefits for most other taxpayers would be smaller, but Trump attempted to sell the bill as a "Christmas present" for middle-class Americans in part because it would trigger job growth.

"It'll be fantastic for the middle-income people and for jobs, most of all," Trump told reporters on the White House lawn before traveling to Camp David for the weekend. "And I will say that because of what we've done with regulation and other things our economy is doing fantastically well, but it has another big step to go and it can't take that step unless we do the tax bill."

No stranger to hyperbole, Trump also predicted the legislation would cause the economy to soar beyond its current 3 percent rate of growth.

"I think we could go to 4, 5 or even 6 percent, ultimately," the president said. "We are back. We are really going to start to rock."

Many economists believe that attaining consistent 4 or 5 percent annual growth would be challenging. The nation last topped 5 percent growth in 1984.

The Republican plan is the widest-ranging reshaping of the tax code in three decades and is expected to add to the nation's $20 trillion debt. The tax cuts are projected to add $1.46 trillion over a decade.

Under the bill, today's 35 percent rate on corporations would fall to 21 percent, the crown jewel of the measure for many Republicans. Trump and GOP leaders had set 20 percent as their goal but added a point to free money for other tax cuts that won over wavering lawmakers in final talks.

"This is happening. Tax reform under Republican control of Washington is happening," House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin told rank-and-file members in a conference call Friday. "Most critics out there didn't think it could happen. ... And now we're on the doorstep of something truly historic."

The bill would repeal an important part of President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act—the requirement that all Americans have health insurance or face a penalty - as the GOP looks to unravel a law it failed to repeal and replace this past summer. It came together as Republicans cemented the needed support for the overhaul, securing endorsements from wavering senators.

Marco Rubio of Florida relented in his high-profile opposition after negotiators expanded the tax credit that parents can claim for their children. He said he would vote for the measure next week.

Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, the only Republican to vote against the Senate version earlier this month, made the surprise announcement that he would back the legislation. Corker, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has repeatedly warned that the nation's growing debt is the most serious threat to national security.

"I realize this is a bet on our country's enterprising spirit, and that is a bet I am willing to make," Corker said.

## Sign-ups show health law's staying power in Trump era

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A deadline burst of sign-ups after a tumultuous year for the Obama health law has revealed continued demand for the program's subsidized individual health plans. But the Affordable Care Act's troubles aren't over.

On the plus side for the overhaul, official numbers showed a sizable share of first-time customers, 36 percent, were among those rushing to finish HealthCare.gov applications in the run-up to Friday's enrollment deadline.

"People need health care, that is plain and simple," said Kevin Watkins of Florence, Alabama. A self-employed consultant helping small businesses sell online, Watkins re-enrolled for 2018. He'll pay under $100 a month after subsidies.

Final national enrollment numbers aren't expected until next year because some states running their own insurance websites extended sign-ups to Jan. 31. States in charge of their own programs are striving to equal last year's enrollment.

Enrollment in the 39 states served by HealthCare.gov is expected to be lower, which could intensify criticism of the Trump administration's decision to cut the federal sign-up season in half. The administration has extended the deadline for some people to finish their health insurance: Callers to the HealthCare.gov service center on Saturday morning got a recorded message saying "don't worry" — if they had left their phone number before the deadline, they will get a return call and still can enroll for 2018.

Nationally, 12.2 million people had enrolled by the end of the Obama administration's final sign-up period. Under Trump, there could be 1 million to 2 million fewer sign-ups, said Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

Still, it was only a year ago that the health law seemed headed for oblivion as Donald Trump swept into the White House with a Republican-controlled Congress. Now its full repeal seems to be off the table. But the program for people who don't have job-based coverage faces the same old challenges of high premiums and declining insurer participation, along with some new ones.

One new challenge comes from the GOP tax bill, which repeals the law's requirement that people have health insurance or risk fines.

Parallel to that, the administration is preparing to issue rules facilitating the sale of lower-cost insurance plans that will deliver less than the law's "essential" benefits package.

Put the combination together and experts say it will draw healthy customers away from already shaky ACA insurance markets, raising premiums for those left behind and giving insurers new reasons to drop out.

The law's supporters were still upbeat as the shortened open enrollment season in most states wound down.

"What we are seeing is that this insurance is meeting people's needs and it is affordable if you receive financial assistance," said Elizabeth Colvin of Foundation Communities, a nonprofit in Austin, Texas, that helps low-income people enroll. "So much of the story has been telling people that the ACA is not working. That's not the reality in central Texas."

It was Trump who most notably predicted a spectacular collapse for the law.

"It's imploding, and soon will explode, and it's not going to be pretty," he said this year.

## China, Britain pledge cooperation as UK leaves EU

**BEIJING** (AP)—Britain and China pledged Saturday to promote London as a center for offshore use of Beijing's currency and cooperate in clean energy research and promoting trade as the United Kingdom prepares to leave the European Union.

Officials announced the agreements following an economic dialogue led by Britain's finance minister, Philip Hammond, and a senior Chinese economic official, Vice Premier Ma Kai. The event was attended by a delegation of British business leaders and economic officials.

British leaders are looking to China for trade and investment as they try to fashion a new global role and offset reduced access to the other 27 nations of the European common market.

The two sides agreed to promote international use of China's tightly controlled yuan and develop yuan-based business in London. That could help to shore up the British capital's status as a global financial center outside the EU.

"The two sides will discuss future trade arrangements and push for the conclusion of a China-EU investment agreement," Ma said at a joint news conference.

The economic dialogue is an annual event, but this year's gathering at a government guesthouse in Beijing took on special significance following Britain's 2016 vote to leave the EU. Hammond was accompanied by the governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, British financial regulators and an unusually large delegation of businesspeople for such an event.

Hammond said London is looking for a "sustainable future arrangement" with the EU. He said that was likely to be more complex than agreements made with Canada or members of the European Economic Area.

"It is likely that we will want to negotiate specific arrangements, bespoke arrangements that reflect the long and close trading history," said Hammond.

British officials want "an environment which will effectively replicate the current status quo," allowing companies to conduct trade and financial services across borders, he said.

Premier Li Keqiang, China's top economic official, expressed confidence Friday during a meeting with Hammond in "steady and sound growth" of Chinese-British relations regardless of what happens between London and the EU.

"We hope the U.K. and the EU will conduct their Brexit negotiations in a way that's mutually beneficial for both sides and result in outcomes that are desirable for both sides," said a deputy Chinese finance minister, Shi Yaobin.

Chinese and British officials also agreed to look at ways to expand Britain's role in Beijing's "Belt and Road Initiative," a vast project aimed at expanding trade across Asia to Europe by building railways, ports and other infrastructure.

# Nation

## Special counsel obtains thousands of Trump transition emails

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian contacts with President Donald Trump's campaign has gained access to thousands of emails sent and received by Trump officials before the start of his administration, according to several people familiar with Trump's transition organization.

But the investigators did not directly request the records from Trump's still-existing transition group, Trump for America, and instead obtained them from the General Services Administration, a separate federal agency that stored the material, according to those familiar with the Trump transition organization.

The tens of thousands of emails in question pertain to 13 senior Trump transition officials. Many of the emails that Mueller's investigators have now include national security discussions about possible Trump international aims as well as candid assessments of candidates for top government posts, said those familiar with the transition. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the records' sensitivity.

On Saturday, Kory Langhofer, general counsel for the transition group, sent a letter to two congressional committees arguing that the GSA had improperly provided the transition records to Mueller's investigators. In the letter to the Republican chairmen of the House Oversight and the Senate Homeland Security committees, Langhofer contends that the disclosure by GSA was "unauthorized," and it considers the documents private and privileged and not government property.

AP

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, whose panel is investigating Russian meddling in the U.S. elections, listens to a reporter's question about the case as he boards a tram between the Capitol and the Senate office buildings following final votes, in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017.

Langhofer also said that a GSA official appointed by Trump in May had assured the transition in June that any request for records from Mueller's office would be referred to the transition's attorneys. According to Langhofer, the assurance was made by then-GSA General Counsel Richard Beckler, who was hospitalized in August and has since died. A copy of the letter was viewed by the AP.

But late Saturday, another GSA official present for the conversation told Buzzfeed News that there was nothing improper about the disclosure of the emails to Mueller's team. The GSA has provided office space and other aid to presidential transitions in recent years and typically houses electronic transition records in its computer system.

GSA Deputy Counsel Lenny Loewentritt told Buzzfeed that Beckler didn't make a commitment to the transition team that requests from law enforcement for materials would be routed through transition lawyers.

Loewentritt said the transition was informed that by using government devices, the agency wouldn't hold back records from law enforcement. Transition officials signed agreements that warn them that materials kept on the government servers are subject to monitoring and auditing, he told Buzzfeed, and there's no expectation of privacy.

The documents were provided to Mueller's team by the GSA in September in response to requests from the FBI, but the transition wasn't informed at the time, according to people familiar with the transition organization. Officials with Trump for America learned last Wednesday that GSA officials had turned over the cache of emails to Mueller's team.

Among the officials who used transition email accounts was former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, who pleaded guilty to a count of making false statements to FBI agents in January and is now cooperating with Mueller's investigation. Flynn was fired by Trump in February for misleading senior administration officials about his contacts with Russia's ambassador to the U.S.

It's unclear how revelatory the email accounts maintained by the GSA will be for Mueller. Several high-level Trump advisers sometimes used other email accounts to communicate about transition issues between Election Day and the inauguration.

Mueller's spokesman, Peter Carr, and Flynn attorney, Robert Kelner, declined to comment. Jay Sekulow, an attorney on Trump's personal legal team, referred questions to the transition group. Spokespeople for GSA didn't immediately respond to AP's emailed requests for comment.

The media site Axios first reported on the transfer of the emails to Mueller's team.

## A CDC ban on 'fetus' and 'transgender?' Experts alarmed

**NEW YORK** (AP) — Health leaders say they are alarmed about a report that officials at the nation's top public health agency are being told not to use certain words or phrases in official budget documents, including "fetus," ''transgender" and "science-based."

The health community was reacting to a story in The Washington Post published late Friday citing an anonymous source who said the prohibition was made at a recent meeting of senior budget officials at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The seven words and phrases — "diversity," ''entitlement," ''fetus," transgender," ''vulnerable," ''evidence-based" and "science-based" — were not to be used in documents that are to be circulated within the federal government and Congress in preparation of the next presidential budget proposal, the paper reported.

On Saturday a CDC official confirmed CDC officials were given "feedback" from higher ranks of the federal government at a recent meeting to reconsider certain language in draft budget documents. But she said she did not know if there was any specific prohibition about using those seven words. She spoke on condition of anonymity, saying she was not authorized to talk about what happened.

A spokesman at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees CDC, said in a statement that it's a mischaracterization to say the CDC was banned from using certain words. But HHS officials did not clarify or answer any other questions.

In an email to the agency's employees on Saturday night, CDC Director Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald noted the media report and wrote; "I want to assure you that CDC remains committed to our public health mission as a science- and evidence-based institution. As part of our commitment to provide for the common defense of the country against health threats, science is and will remain the foundation of our work."

The Atlanta-based CDC is in charge of responding to infectious disease outbreaks, like Ebola and Zika, and tracking a wide range of chronic diseases and other health problems.

For decades, the agency has had a mostly sterling reputation as a source of scientific information. That the agency could be censoring certain language sparked alarm and anger from some science and public health experts.

"Here's a word that's still allowed: 'ridiculous,'" said Rush Holt, chief executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in a statement reacting to the report.

Dr. Sandro Galea, dean of Boston University's School of Public Health, says these things matter "because the words that we use ultimately describe what we care about and what we think are priorities."

"If you are saying you cannot use words like 'transgender' and 'diversity,' it's a clear statement that you cannot pay attention to these issues."

## Residents flee as flames approach wealthy California enclave

**MONTECITO, Calif.** (AP)—Residents piled into cars and fled on Saturday, turning downtown Santa Barbara into "a ghost town" as surging winds drove one of the biggest fires in California's history toward the city and the nearby wealthy enclave of Montecito.

The mandatory evacuations around Montecito and neighboring Summerland came as winds that had eased a day earlier roared back at around 30 mph (48 kph), with gusts to about 60 mph (97 kph). Firefighters sprayed water onto hot spots sparked by wind-blown embers. Firefighters also drove to the historic San Ysidro Ranch in yellow fire trucks as heavy smoke rose from the coastal hills, blotting out the blue skies.

A portion of Santa Barbara was under mandatory evacuation. At the city's zoo, workers began putting some animals into crates and kennels, to ready them for possible evacuation.

In downtown Santa Barbara, Maya Schoop-Rutten, owner of Chocolate Maya, said she saw through the window of her chocolate shop smoke suddenly appear after strong winds blew through.

"It was absolutely incredible," she said. "There was a huge mushroom of smoke that happened in just a matter of a few minutes."

Restaurants and small stores on normally bustling State Street were shuttered.

"It's a ghost town. Everything is shut down," Schoop-Rutten said. "It's very, very eerie."

The northbound lanes of U.S. Highway 101, coming up the coast from Los Angeles, were closed for a few hours south of Santa Barbara, with cars stopped on the freeway.

The 404-square-mile (1,046-sq. kilometer) blaze called the Thomas fire was moving rapidly westward and crested Montecito Peak, just north of Montecito. Known for its star power, the enclave boasts the mansions of Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres and many other celebrities.

"It is right above the homes," fire spokesman Jude Olivas said.

Winfrey expressed her dismay on her Twitter account.

"Still praying for our little town. Winds picked up this morning creating a perfect storm of bad for firefighters," Winfrey tweeted. It was not clear if the former talk show host was in Montecito.

### Top 10 largest California wildfires

| | Fire name, cause | Date | County | Acres | Deaths |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | CEDAR (Human Related) | Oct. 2003 | San Diego | 273,246 | 15 |
| 2. | RUSH (Lightning) | Aug. 2012 | Lassen | 271,911 | 0 |
| 3. | RIM (Human-related) | Aug. 2013 | Tuolumne | 257,314 | 0 |
| 4. | THOMAS (Under investigation) | Dec. 2017 | Ventura/Santa Barbara | 252,500 | 1 |
| 5. | ZACA (Human-related) | July 2007 | Santa Barbara | 240,207 | 0 |
| 6. | MATILIJA (Undetermined) | Sept. 1932 | Ventura | 220,000 | 0 |
| 7. | WITCH (Power lines) | Oct. 2007 | San Diego | 197,990 | 2 |
| 8. | KLAMATH (Lightning) | June 2008 | Siskiyou | 192,038 | 2 |
| 9. | MARBLE CONE (Lightning) | July 1977 | Monterey | 177,866 | 0 |
| 10. | LAGUNA (Power lines) | Sept.1970 | San Diego | 175,425 | 5 |

Source: fire.ca.gov
Graphic: Staff, TNS

# Asia

## AP EXCLUSIVE:

## Thought police instill fear in western China

**KORLA, China** (AP)—Nobody knows what happened to the Uighur student after he returned to China from Egypt and was taken away by police. Not his neighbors, not his classmates, not his mother.

"Is he dead or alive?" the mother said, tears streaming down her face when Associated Press reporters visited her at home unexpectedly and showed her a photo of the student.

The student's friends think he joined thousands — possibly tens of thousands — of people who have been spirited away without trial into new indoctrination centers. The mass disappearances, beginning the past year, are part of efforts by Chinese authorities to use detentions and data-driven surveillance to impose a police state over the region of Xinjiang and its 10 million Uighurs, a Turkic-speaking Muslim minority that China says has been influenced by Islamic extremism.

Unprecedented levels of police blanket Xinjiang's streets in many cities. Cutting-edge surveillance systems track where Uighurs go, what they read, who they talk to and what they say.

Through rare interviews with Uighurs who recently left China, a review of government procurement contracts and unreported documents, and a trip through southern Xinjiang, the AP pieced together a picture of a campaign that's ostensibly rooting out terror — but instead instilling fear.

Most of the more than a dozen Uighurs interviewed for this story spoke on condition of anonymity for fear that Chinese authorities would punish them or their family members. The AP is withholding the student's name and other personal information to protect people who fear government retribution.

The Xinjiang regional government did not respond to repeated requests for comment. But China's government describes its Xinjiang security policy as a "strike hard" campaign that's necessary following a series of attacks in 2013 and 2014, including a mass knifing in a train station that killed 33. A Hotan city propaganda official, Bao Changhui, told the AP: "If we don't do this, it will be like several years ago — hundreds will die."

China also points to decades of heavy economic investment and cultural assimilation programs and measures like preferential college admissions for Uighurs.

Authorities refer to the detention program as "vocational training," but its main purpose appears to be indoctrination. Training sessions on "Mandarin, law, ethnic unity, deradicalization, patriotism" are described as lasting anywhere from 3 months to 2 years.

In Korla, one center the AP visited was labeled a jail. Another was downtown on a street sealed off by rifle-toting police.

Southern Xinjiang, where Korla is located, is one of the most heavily policed places on earth.

In Hotan, police depots with flashing lights and foot patrols are set up every 500 meters. Motorcades of more than 40 armored vehicles rumble down city boulevards. Police checkpoints on every other block stop cars to check identification and smartphones for religious content.

Xinjiang's published budget data shows public security spending this year is on track to increase 50 percent from 2016 to roughly 45 billion yuan ($6.8 billion) after rising 40 percent a year ago. It's quadrupled since 2009, when a Uighur riot broke out in Urumqi, killing nearly 200 people.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Indonesia clerics want boycott of US products over Jerusalem

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP)—Muslim clerics called for a boycott of American products Sunday in Indonesia's largest protest against President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Wearing white robes and carrying banners reading "Indonesia unites for Palestine" and "Save our Palestine," an estimated 80,000 people rallied in the capital of the world's largest Muslim nation in the 10th straight day of protests. Anwar Abbas, a top cleric from the Indonesian Council of Ulema, read a petition calling on Indonesians to stop buying American products until Trump revoked his move. "Don't rely on their products," he said, as the crowd including men, women and children responded by waving Indonesian and Palestinian flags and shouting "boycott!" Previous anti-American protests have unsuccessfully lobbied for a boycott of U.S. goods.

### North Korea marks 6th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's death

**PYONGYANG, North Korea** (AP)—Crowds of flower-bearing North Koreans on Sunday streamed passed statues and portraits of their leaders to pay respects on the sixth anniversary of the death of Kim Jong Un's father, Kim Jong Il. With somber, recorded music playing in the sub-zero air, thousands upon thousands of people marched up Pyongyang's Mansu Hill to bow and place flowers at the feet of two giant bronze statues of Kim Jong Il and national founder Kim Il Sung, who is North Korea's "eternal president" and Kim Jong Un's grandfather. Kim Jong Il died on Dec. 17, 2011. Although the sense of national mourning is less intense than in previous years, North Koreans are expected to avoid drinking, entertainment and inappropriate displays of enjoyment on the day before and the day of the anniversary. At midnight, senior ruling party officials visited a mausoleum on the outskirts of the city where the elder Kims lie in state, according to state-run media reports.

### Sydney man charged with brokering North Korea missile sales

**SYDNEY** (AP)—A South Korean-born Sydney man was charged Sunday with acting as an economic agent for North Korea in Australia by allegedly attempting to broker sales worth tens of millions of dollars for Pyongyang that included components used in ballistic missiles. The Australian Federal Police said 59-year-old naturalized Australian Chan Han Choi used encrypted communication to broker sales and discuss the supply of weapons of mass destruction. His actions contravened both United Nations and Australian sanctions against North Korea, police said. Police said the man was acting to generate income for Pyongyang by arranging the sale of computer software used for guiding ballistic missiles as well as expertise from North Korea to other "international entities." Police didn't elaborate. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said he had been briefed by AFP Commissioner Andrew Colvin on the "very, very serious matter" and warned anyone thinking of assisting North Korea that "the AFP will find you."

# World

## Rural Zimbabweans miss Mugabe drama

**LUPANE, Zimbabwe** (AP)—Good luck convincing some of Zimbabwe's far-flung residents that they have a new president despite last month's dramatic ouster of Robert Mugabe after 37 years in power.

AP

In this Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017, photo, potential buyers browse a cattle auction in Gomoza village in Zimbabwe.

"Don't be silly, no one has that kind of power to remove Mugabe. He will die in office, that one," said Sokuluhle Dube, selling cooked goat meat at a cattle auction far from the capital, Harare. "I don't think you are a journalist, maybe you are a spy," the 76-year-old told The Associated Press as her friends nodded in agreement.

As new leader Emmerson Mnangagwa tries to revive a shattered economy, the changes his government hopes to hurry along are bumping up against a rural lifestyle where news travels by word of mouth—and clearly not all news has arrived.

In this district disconnected from phone lines, many people are only remotely aware of the momentous events leading to Mugabe's resignation, including the military's takeover, the hundreds of thousands marching in the capital and the impeachment proceedings that finally led the 93-year-old president to step down.

Instead, the local buzz was about the cattle auction in Lupane's Gomoza village, where hundreds gathered to buy and sell. In the fair-like atmosphere, others bargained over items ranging from bicycles to sorghum beer as music blared from loudspeakers.

Mugabe, gone? Many have known no other president.

"It's true. I heard someone talk about it the other day," one younger villager said, amid the skeptics. But he showed little concern.

"How does it help us? They always do their things in Harare. Look around us, does it seem like they ever cared about us?"

The work of recovering from years of mismanagement, a severe cash shortage and unemployment so severe that millions have left the country is an even more towering challenge in Zimbabwe's agricultural regions, where infrastructure is often shaky or absent.

In Gomoza, one store advertises mobile phone money transactions that are impossible because there is no mobile phone coverage.

Fixed telephone lines are down, and signals for local television and radio are nonexistent. The dusty road to the village is dominated by donkeys drawing carts, the main mode of transport.

The scene resembles many parts of Zimbabwe that have been left behind by years of underdevelopment and often rely on international aid organizations to get by.

"People here make a living from livestock. They sell cattle, goats and chickens. Business is improving because of support from the Food and Agricultural Organization, which initiated training for villagers," said Nyovane Ndlovu, chairman of the auction floor.

One bull at the auction fetched $610, which had to be paid in cash. There is no infrastructure to pay any other way, said Lucia Mwanyisa, a community manager for the livestock project.

Still, the place hummed with small-scale activity, with little interest in the country's recent turn in the international spotlight.

## Nigeria troops arrest 400-plus Boko Haram fighters, families

**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria** (AP)—Military authorities say Nigerian soldiers have arrested more than 400 people associated with the Boko Haram extremist group hiding on the islands of Lake Chad, including fighters, wives and children.

The two-week operation netted the largest number of arrests of Boko Haram fighters in recent months in northeast Nigeria, Col. Onyema Nwachukwu said. The operation included air and ground offensives.

The military said many Boko Haram insurgents were killed, but it did not give details.

Among those arrested were 167 Boko Haram fighters, 67 women and 173 children. The women and children will be handed over to authorities of displacement camps after investigations, the military said.

Another 57 insurgents were arrested during a separate operation in another part of the troubled region.

Boko Haram has been blamed for more than 20,000 deaths during its eight-year insurgency, which has spilled over into neighboring countries and created a vast humanitarian crisis with millions displaced and hungry.

Human rights groups have expressed concern about the large number of women and children who have been arrested in the fight against Boko Haram, saying most of those detained have been picked up at random and without reasonable suspicion.

In an effort relieve overcrowded military detention facilities, Nigeria's government in October began the trials of more than 1,600 suspected Boko Haram members behind closed doors at a military barracks. It was the largest mass trial in the Islamic extremist group's history.

While Nigeria's president late last year declared the extremist group had been "crushed," leader Abubakar Shekau remains elusive and the group in recent months has carried out a growing number of deadly suicide bombings and other attacks. Many have been carried out by women or children who were abducted and indoctrinated.

Earlier this week, dozens of Nigerian state governors approved the transfer of $1 billion to aid the federal government's fight against Boko Haram, signaling that the announcements of victory over the extremists had come too soon.

# Health & Fitness

## MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

# What's your limit on holiday salt?

It's the time of year when food takes center place. You may find yourself packing plates high with mashed potatoes or snacking on stacks of chips. From family gatherings to treats in the office, high-sodium snacks and foods are everywhere. Too much salt can lead to problems for some people with high blood pressure or heart failure. But what's too much?

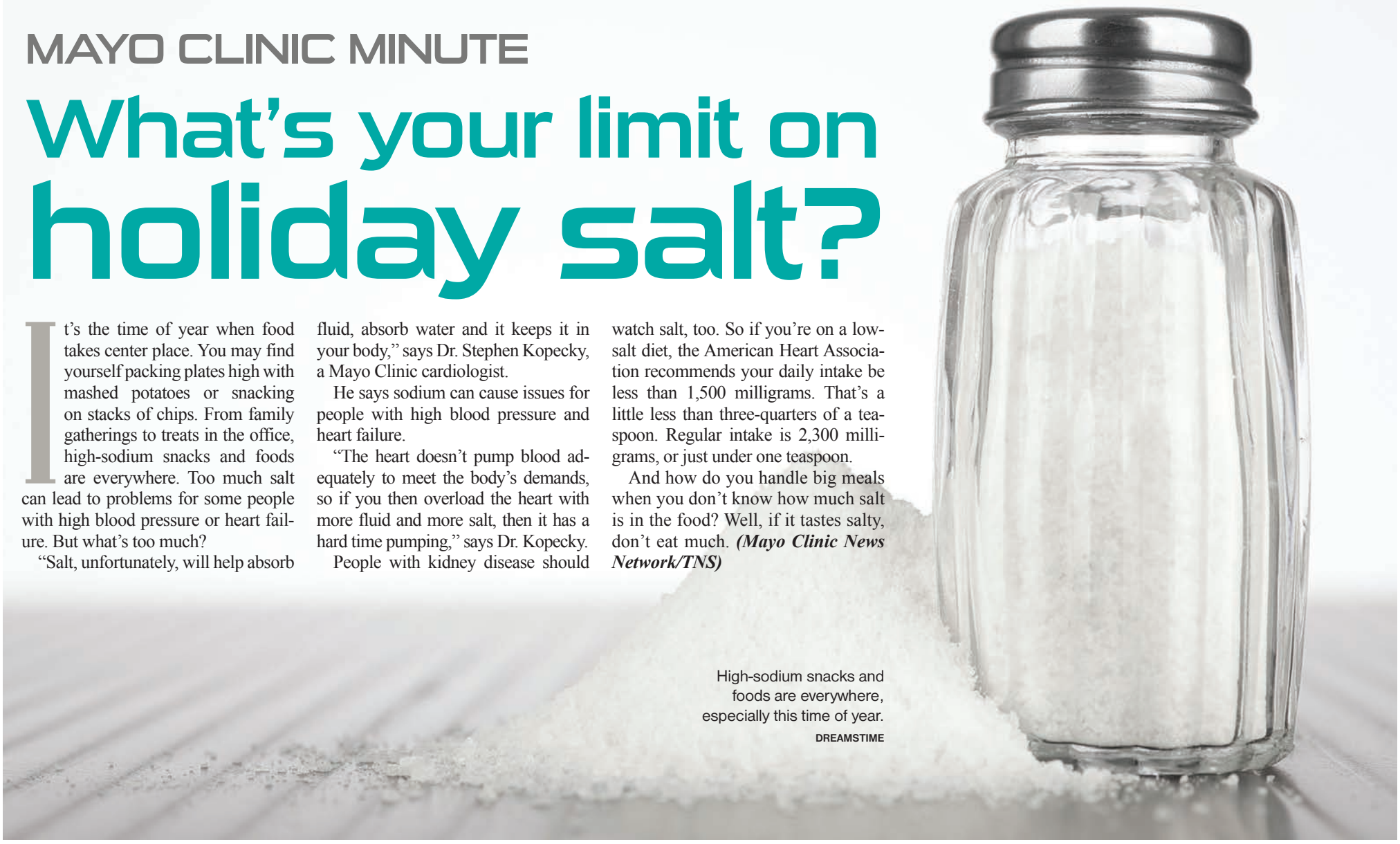
"Salt, unfortunately, will help absorb fluid, absorb water and it keeps it in your body," says Dr. Stephen Kopecky, a Mayo Clinic cardiologist.

He says sodium can cause issues for people with high blood pressure and heart failure.

"The heart doesn't pump blood adequately to meet the body's demands, so if you then overload the heart with more fluid and more salt, then it has a hard time pumping," says Dr. Kopecky.

People with kidney disease should watch salt, too. So if you're on a low-salt diet, the American Heart Association recommends your daily intake be less than 1,500 milligrams. That's a little less than three-quarters of a teaspoon. Regular intake is 2,300 milligrams, or just under one teaspoon.

And how do you handle big meals when you don't know how much salt is in the food? Well, if it tastes salty, don't eat much. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)***

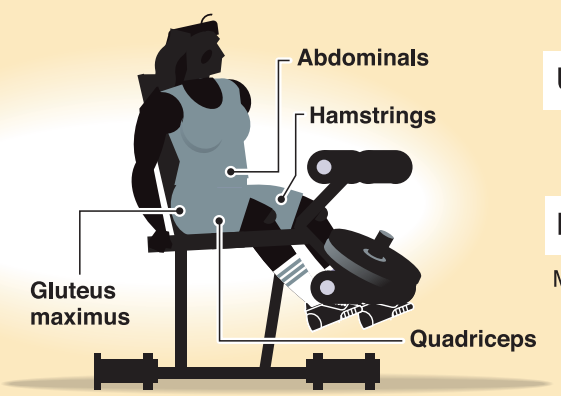


High-sodium snacks and foods are everywhere, especially this time of year.
DREAMSTIME

**Personal Trainer**

## How many reps to a set?

*Strength exercises are done in "sets" (series) of "reps" (repetitions); how to judge how many reps to do and how much weight to use:*

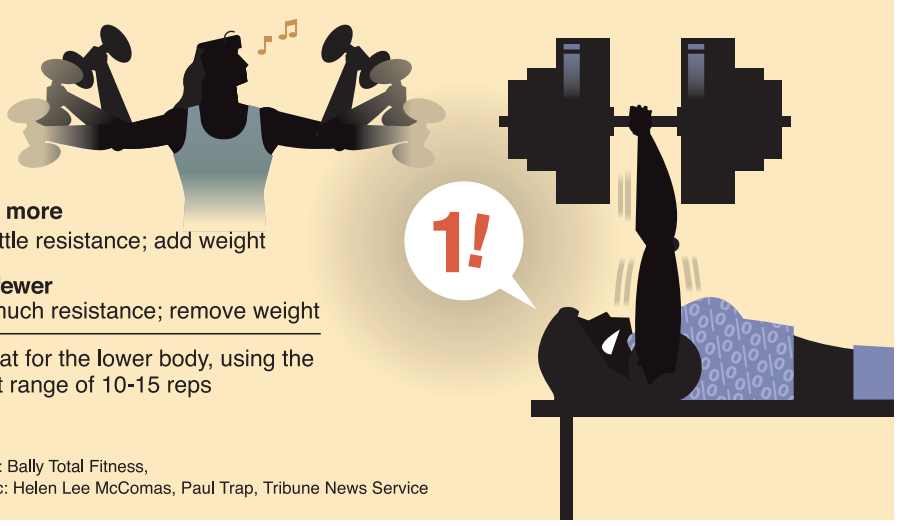


**Upper body 8-12 reps**
Smaller muscles here, in shoulders and arms

**Lower body 10-15 reps**
More than for upper body because body's largest muscles are here

### Choosing the right resistance or weight

For each exercise, start with upper body and determine how many reps you can do on first try before feeling muscle fatigue




**13 or more**
Too little resistance; add weight

**7 or fewer**
Too much resistance; remove weight

Repeat for the lower body, using the target range of 10-15 reps

Source: Bally Total Fitness,
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

# Let the dogs sleep in your room

When it comes to your pooch and your bed, the verdict is in. For a good night's sleep, there's no need to let the dog out of the bedroom when you're ready to go to sleep. A recent Mayo Clinic study found sleeping with your dog in the bedroom—but not in your bed—may not disrupt sleep as previously thought.

That's good news for the millions of Americans who have dogs as pets and consider their canine companion a member of their family.

Dr. Lois Krahn, a Mayo Clinic sleep medicine specialist and co-author of the study says, "The relationship between people and their pets has changed over time, which is likely why many people in fact do sleep with their pets in the bedroom."

Dr. Krahn explains the study, "We decided to collect data using a measuring device, applied to both the dogs and people, to see who was right.

"And we found that as long as the dogs were not on the bed, their presence in the bedroom did not appear to be a big issue for the sleep of their owner, but on the bed was a different story.

"I do think that it's possible to have a dog, to incorporate them into your life, to spend time, including evening and night hours, but you have to be sensible.

"You have to sort of pay attention to your own needs, your own sleep, and then think of how you can incorporate the dog. And don't let the dog just do exactly what it wants." ***(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)***

DREAMSTIME
Though it may not be the case for letting them sleep in your bed, a recent Mayo Clinic study found that allowing pets to sleep in the bedroom with you may not disrupt sleep as previously thought.

This advertorial is sponsored by
**Tan Siu Lin Foundation**
Tan Holdings
HEALTH IS WEALTH
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

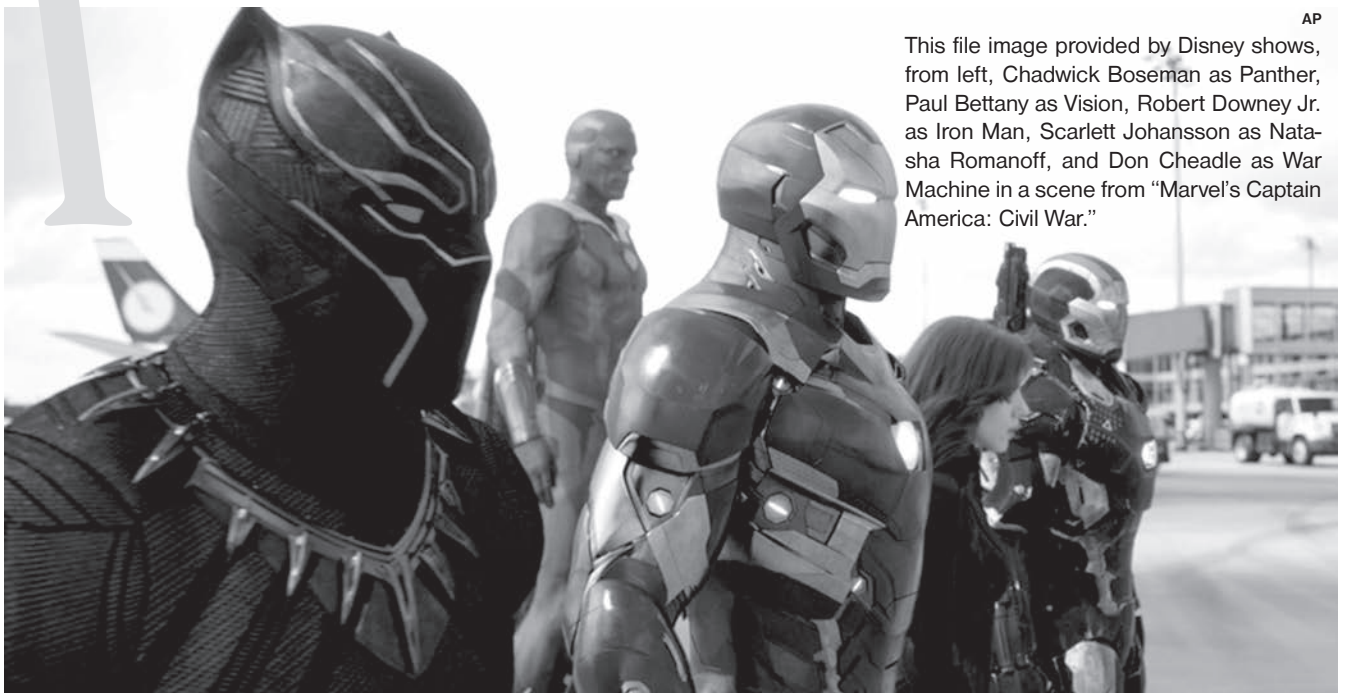
# Life & Style

## Disney-Fox deal may create a new nerdy nirvana

**MENLO PARK, California** (AP)—The coming union of the Disney and Fox media empires is set to create a new nirvana for fanboys and -girls, one that reunites superheroes and sci-fi characters long separated by an energy barrier of corporate legalism.

Take, for instance, the fractured world of Marvel superheroes. For years, the X-Men (Wolverine, Storm, Professor X and the crew) and the Fantastic Four (Thing, Invisible Woman, et al) have battled bad dudes from the studios of 20th Century Fox. Meanwhile Iron Man, Black Widow and other Avengers vanquished villains in another corner of the galaxy run by Disney. Almost ne'er the twain did meet — though that could soon change.

In a related fashion, rights to the various "Star Wars" films have been scattered all over a galaxy far, far away; those will soon be unified under a powerful Galactic Emp-- er, well, Magic Kingdom.



AP

This file image provided by Disney shows, from left, Chadwick Boseman as Panther, Paul Bettany as Vision, Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man, Scarlett Johansson as Natasha Romanoff, and Don Cheadle as War Machine in a scene from "Marvel's Captain America: Civil War."

### THE MOUSE THAT ATE THE FOX

Disney's announcement Thursday that it's buying most of movie goliath Fox for $52.4 billion in stock brings these once disparate franchises together, possibly for as-yet unplanned intergalactic dust-ups. Add the "Avatar" franchise to the blockbuster mix, and the company that launched Mickey Mouse will be an unavoidable presence at the box office and online if the deal goes through.

The combined company will account for more than a third of theatrical revenues in the U.S. and Canada, an $11 billion business last year, not to mention a huge chunk of the global theater-going pie, according to Daniel Ives, chief strategy officer at market research firm GBH Insights.

That would make the Disney juggernaut a more powerful theatrical force to be reckoned with than ever before. Online, Disney has announced plans to launch its own streaming service in 2019, after pulling titles like "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" and Disney's "Moana" from Netflix's streaming platform to move onto its own. After Fox's deal to send its movies to HBO ends reportedly in 2022, its films will also move to the Disney streaming platforms.

"Creating a direct-to-consumer relationship is vital to the future of our media businesses and it's our highest priority," Disney CEO Bob Iger told investors in a Thursday conference call detailing the Fox deal.

### ONE BIG HAPPY DEATH STAR

Those old enough to remember the blaring 20th Century Fox opening to the original "Star Wars" (Episode IV) may no longer have to search far, far, away to find the other titles. The original was made and distributed by Fox, but it was a quirk of the series.

Episodes V, VI, I, II, and III were owned by Lucasfilm (bought by Disney in 2012) and distributed by Fox. You can only stream those first six movies endlessly if you buy them and register them through the not-terribly-popular UltraViolet system backed by several studios. (You can also rent them digitally.) "The Force Awakens" — Episode VII — is available to streaming subscribers, though only if you have Starz.

The Force may finally put these titles in one place.

Buying Fox will also give Disney a majority stake in streaming platform Hulu. The addition of Fox's regional sports TV networks and National Geographic video programming in the deal could let the new service bundle hugely popular movie and TV franchises, local sports broadcast rights, and distribution platforms into one live online video empire.

That would recreate online what the U.S. Supreme Court broke apart in the 1940s. That's when the court forced Hollywood studios to divest ownership of theater chains to keep content producers from controlling every step along the way to the consumer.

"This moves Disney from an afterthought in streaming to a legitimate contender," Ives said.

### SCRAPPY REBELS

At the same time, tech companies — particularly Netflix, Amazon, Facebook, Google, and Apple — are making big investments in video streaming. Hollywood-centered entertainment companies have struggled as people drop traditional TV packages, shifting the nexus of power in entertainment from the Hollywood Hills toward Silicon Valley and Seattle.

That marketplace dynamic could help pave the way for regulators to clear the deal, aimed to close within the next 12 to 18 months.

"These guys are up against Facebook and Google, not Warner Bros. and MGM," said Mike Kelly, the former Weather Channel CEO who is now CEO of investment and advisory firm Kelly Newman Ventures. "If you look at it that way, I don't think the government would have that big of an issue with it."

## Major media players start commission for sexual misconduct

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The biggest figures and institutions in entertainment have established a commission to be chaired by Anita Hill that intends to combat sexual misconduct and inequality in the industry in the wake of the huge wave of revelations spurred by allegations against Harvey Weinstein.

A statement Friday announced the founding of the Commission on Sexual Harassment and Advancing Equality in the Workplace, a group that grew out of a meeting called by "Star Wars" producer Kathleen Kennedy and several other prominent women in the industry.

"The Commission will not seek just one solution, but a comprehensive strategy to address the complex and interrelated causes of the problems of parity and power," Kennedy said in a statement.

The chief executives of nearly every major Hollywood studio, TV network and record label attended the meeting and agreed to found and to fund the group, the statement said.

AP

In this Dec. 8, 2017 file photo, Anita Hill speaks at a discussion about sexual harassment and how to create lasting change from the scandal roiling Hollywood at United Talent Agency in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The long list includes Disney CEO Bob Iger, Paramount CEO Karen Stuart, Universal Music Group CEO Sir Lucian Grainge and CBS chief executive Leslie Moonves.

The movie and music academies and many of the major agencies and unions that represent entertainers also signed on.

"The fact that so many industry leaders — across film, television, music, digital, unions, agencies ... and guilds — came together, in one room, to explore solutions speaks to a new era," Kennedy said.

The group chose as its chair the law professor Hill, who brought the concept of sexual harassment to national consciousness in 1991 when she testified during the Supreme Court confirmation hearings of Clarence Thomas.

"It is time to end the culture of silence," Hill said in a statement. "I've been at this work for 26 years. This moment presents us with an unprecedented opportunity to make real change."

The commission said in its statement that it would reconvene immediately after the first of the year to hone its mission, scope and priorities.

The revelations about Weinstein in The New York Times and the New Yorker in October have brought on two months unlike any the media world has ever seen, with nearly daily allegations of sexual harassment assault and abuse involving some of the most prominent players in entertainment including Kevin Spacey, Louis CK, Dustin Hoffman and Russell Simmons.

## *In sex assault laws, definition of consent varies widely*

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP NATIONAL WRITER

For two months now, as accusations of sexual misconduct have piled up against Harvey Weinstein, the disgraced mogul has responded over and over again: "Any allegations of nonconsensual sex are unequivocally denied."

Consent is a concept central to law on sexual assault, and will likely be an issue in potential legal cases against Weinstein, who is under investigation by police in four cities, and others accused in the current so-called "reckoning."

But the definition of consent—namely, how it is expressed—is a matter of intense debate: Is it a definite "yes," or the mere absence of "no"? Can it be revoked? Do power dynamics come into play? Legally, the definition varies widely across the nation.

"Half the states don't even have a definition of consent," says Erin Murphy, a professor at New York University School of Law who's involved in a project to rewrite a model penal code on sex assault. "One person's idea of consent is that no one is screaming or crying. Another person's idea of consent is someone saying, 'Yes, I want to do this.' And in between, of course, is an enormous spectrum of behavior, both verbal and nonverbal, that people engage in to communicate desire or lack of desire."

"It's pretty telling," Murphy adds, "that the critical thing most people look to understand the nature of a sexual encounter—this idea of consent—is one that we don't even have a consensus definition of in our society."

Many victim advocates argue that a power imbalance plays a role. In nearly every instance, the allegations in recent weeks came from accusers who were in far less powerful positions than those they accused—as in, for example, the rape allegations that have surfaced against music mogul Russell Simmons, which he denies.

"You have to look at the power dynamics, the coercion, the manipulation," says Jeanie Kurka Reimer, a longtime advocate in the area of sexual assault.

# Peter Jackson's Weinstein story opens old wounds for Sorvino

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Director Peter Jackson says he is now realizing that Harvey Weinstein's advice to avoid working with Mira Sorvino or Ashley Judd was likely part of a smear campaign against the two actresses.

Jackson tells Stuff that he was told by Miramax in the late 1990s that they were "a nightmare" to work with and thus didn't consider either for his Lord of the Rings films.

Sorvino said on Twitter that she burst out crying when she saw the article. She says it is confirmation that Weinstein derailed her career.

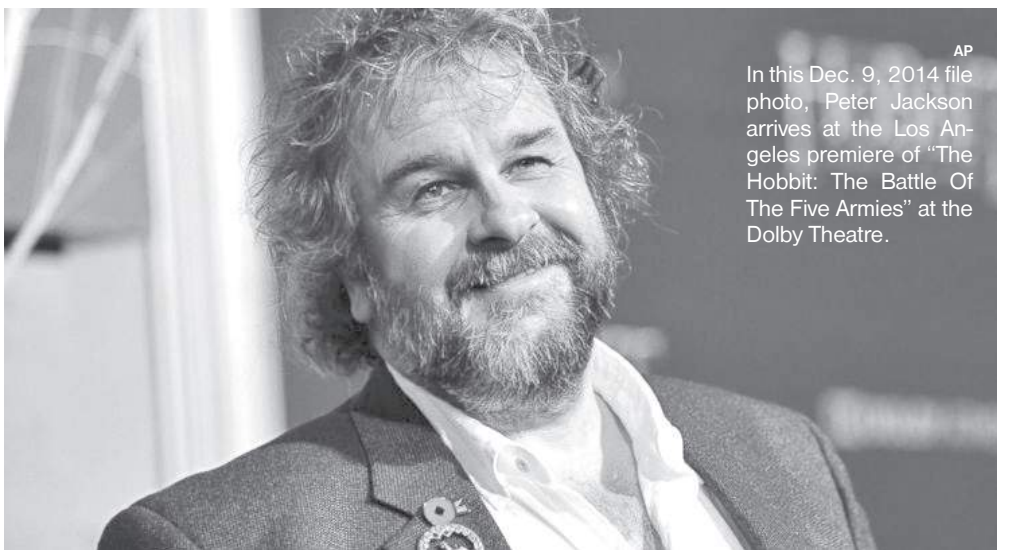
Judd and Sorvino are among dozens of women who have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct.

A spokesperson for Weinstein disputed the account, saying that his company Miramax was not involved in casting, which was handled by New Line.

Jackson said late Friday that "aspects of Harvey's denial are insincere."

In a statement on behalf of himself and producer Fran Walsh, he says that they both expressed enthusiasm for Judd and Sorvino.

"We were immediately told by Miramax to steer clear of them, because they claimed to have had "bad experiences" with these particular actresses in the past," Jackson wrote. "We have no direct evidence linking Ashley and Mira's allegations to our Lord of the Rings casting conversations of 20 years ago — but we stand by what we were told by Miramax when we raised both of their names, and we are recounting it accurately. If we were unwitting accomplices in harming their careers, Fran and I unreservedly apologize to both Ashley and Mira."

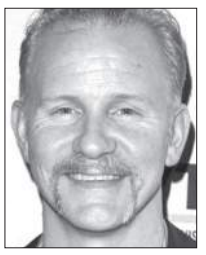


AP

In this Dec. 9, 2014 file photo, Peter Jackson arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies" at the Dolby Theatre.

# Spurlock's 'Super Size Me' sequel pulled from Sundance fest

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Morgan Spurlock's latest documentary will not premiere at the Sundance Film Festival as planned.



Spurlock

The remaining partners in his production company said Friday that they removed "Super Size Me 2: Holy Chicken!" from the Sundance slate in light of Spurlock's confessions of sexual misconduct this week.

Warrior Poets partners Jeremy Chilnick and Matthew Galkin said in a statement that "this is not the appropriate time" for the film to premiere.

YouTube Red, which was to distribute the film, also had a change of heart. YouTube said Friday it would not release the film, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Producers of another documentary set to premiere at Sundance next month also said Friday they were distancing themselves from Spurlock.

"In light of Morgan's recent revelations, we agreed to end his association with 'The Devil We Know,'" producer Kristin Lazure said in a statement. She said she hoped to keep the focus on the film, which explores the effects of toxic chemical pollution.

Spurlock said Wednesday in a lengthy online post that he was accused of rape while in college and settled a sexual harassment case with a female assistant at his office eight years ago. He said he would immediately step down from the production company he co-founded.

Representatives for Spurlock did not immediately respond to a request for comment Friday.

# 'Florida Project' producer accused of sexual misconduct

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—"The Florida Project" producer Andrew Duncan has been accused of sexual misconduct by a dozen anonymous women and is stepping down from his company June Pictures.

Duncan in a statement Friday disputes the allegations, calling them either distorted or demonstrably false. He accuses rivals of "taking advantage of the news climate" and trying to undermine his financial prospects.

The Hollywood Reporter detailed accounts from multiple women alleging various kinds of misconduct on or around film sets ranging from inappropriate suggestions to kissing and groping without consent.

Alex Saks is taking sole control of June Pictures in Duncan's absence.

In addition to "The Florida Project," considered a candidate for best picture at the Oscars, June Pictures produced Paul Dano's directorial debut "Wildlife" and "Book Club," with Diane Keaton and Jane Fonda.

# Prosecutors decline to charge rapper Nelly with rape

**SEATTLE** (AP)—The rapper Nelly will not face rape charges because the accuser is not cooperating, prosecutors in Washington state said.

The woman said Nelly raped her on his tour bus in October in a Seattle suburb. Auburn police arrested Nelly, whose real name is Cornell Iral Haynes Jr., in his bus at a Walmart and he was booked into jail on suspicion of second-degree rape, then released.

Shortly afterward, the woman said she wanted to stop the investigation.

King County prosecutors said in a statement Thursday that they have reviewed the investigation, but without the woman's help, they can't "proceed or fully assess the merits of the case."

Nelly approaches the stage for a concert in Irbil, northern Iraq, on March 13, 2015.

Nelly's attorney, Scott Rosenblum, said in a statement to The Associated Press that the performer had been the victim of a "deceitful allegation devoid of credibility."

Rosenblum said Nelly supports advocacy groups that deal with sexual assault and violence against women and is dedicated to raising awareness about such issues.

"However, this type of reckless false allegation cannot be tolerated, as it is an affront to the real survivors of sexual assault," he said.

# Daughter searches for ways to share Christmas with mom

DEAR ABBY: My parents have been divorced for 15 years. Dad is remarried; my mother lives alone. My brother and I alternate holidays every year, and this year he was supposed to host our mother. Instead, he just informed me he has decided to invite our father and his wife to dinner, leaving our mother no place to go.

I would love to invite her to my in-laws' house, but my husband doesn't want her to come. When I told him he could take the kids to his family's house, he got very upset and told me I should consider him and our children first, before my mother.

So, what should I do? Should I leave my mom home alone on Christmas, or stay with her so she's not alone?

WORRIED ABOUT MOM IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR WORRIED: Has your brother told your mother he won't be celebrating Christmas with her? If he hasn't, he should let her know NOW. Because your husband refuses to share Christmas with your mother, I assume their relationship is strained. If that's the case, it may be time for her to start mending fences.**

**As to whether you should sacrifice Christmas with your husband and children to be with her, I'm not sure you should. Your mother would be wise to learn to be more independent than she appears to be, and a way of doing that would be to start making plans of her own. If there is a church celebration, or an opportunity to volunteer in your community, suggest she investigate it. Also, consider seeing her on Christmas Eve, or for brunch or for lunch if she can't join you for dinner.**

**DEAR ABBY:** I have my college degree and will be heading to graduate school next year. I suffer from ADHD, for which I cannot take medication. ADHD affects many aspects of my life, especially in a professional setting. It makes it difficult for me to do basic things, such as show up to work on time, remember appointments and plan and prioritize tasks.

I'm working with my psychologist on strategies to help me better manage daily life. But in the meantime, how can I communicate to my professors and employers that my troubles with "basic professionalism" stem from an actual diagnosed disability, and not laziness or lack of effort?

GRAD SCHOOL-BOUND

**DEAR GRAD SCHOOL-BOUND: Ask your psychologist to provide you with a letter stating your diagnosis that you can show your professors and employers. If you have written proof that you suffer from a diagnosed disability, they may be willing to work with you rather than be judgmental.**

**DEAR ABBY:** I was at a friend's wedding and introduced myself to the groom's father. Because I was carrying something in my right hand, I extended my left hand. I'm no dead-fish guy, but the "lobster's" grip was so tight it crushed my ring into my finger, causing a bruise. I made no comment at the time, but now I am seething over his behavior. What might I have said, or should I say in some similar encounter?

SORE IN SILICON VALLEY

**DEAR SORE: Some men, in an attempt to prove their masculinity, tend to overdo it. It was within your rights to say, "Oww! Loosen up!" In the future, transfer whatever you're carrying in your right hand so you can observe the social amenities.**

*Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

## DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

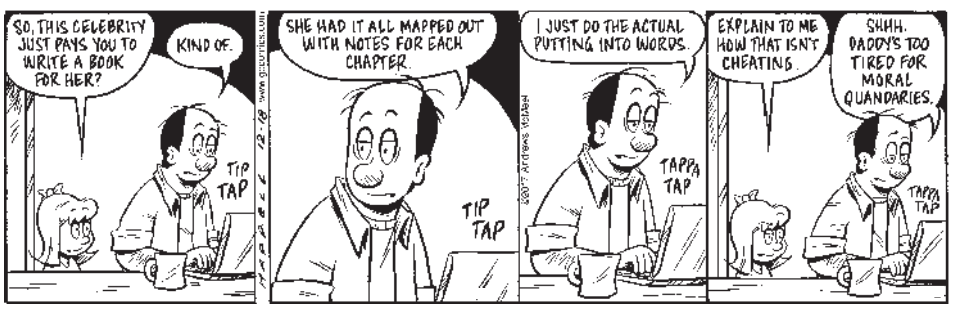
By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

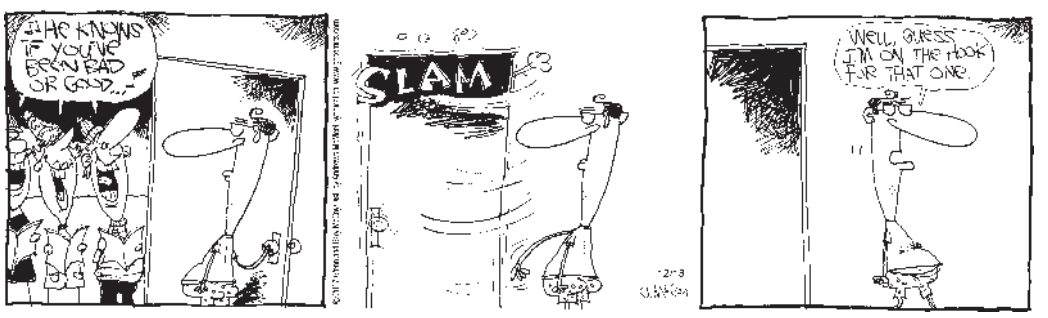
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO, THIS CELEBRITY JUST PAYS YOU TO WRITE A BOOK FOR HER?
KIND OF.
TIP TAP
SHE HAD IT ALL MAPPED OUT WITH NOTES FOR EACH CHAPTER.
TIP TAP
I JUST DO THE ACTUAL PUTTING INTO WORDS.
TAPPA TAP
EXPLAIN TO ME HOW THAT ISN'T CHEATING.
SHHH. DADDY'S TOO TIRED FOR MORAL QUANDARIES.
TAPPA TAP

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy




## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Salary
4 Key of Beethoven's "Emperor Concerto"
9 Short 'do
12 Single
13 Icky stuff
14 Mil. address
15 Wreath decorations
17 Old Oldsmobile
18 Curator's concern
19 Xmas visitor
21 Houston team
24 Membership
25 Pickle holder
26 Pallid
28 Run off to marry
31 Yankee nickname
33 Soccer's Hamm
35 Scrambled wd.
36 Ape
38 Priestly garment
40 Zsa Zsa's sister
41 Suitor
43 Not open
45 Quantity
47 Solo of "Star Wars"
48 Soup container
49 Eastern and Pacific, e.g.
54 Coloration
55 Christmas carol opener
56 Choose
57 QB's stats
58 Nymph pursuer
59 Carefree

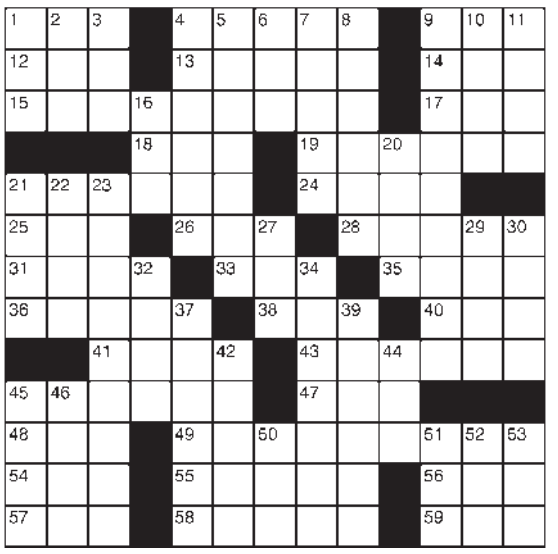
**DOWN**

1 Soda
2 Blackbird
3 Hankering
4 Real estate account
5 Wreckage at sea
6 Architect Maya
7 Make — of (bungle)
8 Exam taker
9 Male singers
10 Oil cartel
11 Library loan
16 Corn spike
20 "The Lion King" lioness
21 In — (stuck)
22 Rani's wrap
23 Brass instruments
27 Actress Vardalos
29 Macadamize
30 "Zounds!"
32 God, in Grenoble
34 Medieval pseudoscience
37 Dantean divisions
39 Sports jacket
42 City near Syracuse
44 Lennon's lady
45 Needing liniment
46 Tennyson poem
50 Witticism
51 Eggy quaff
52 Clean air org.
53 Pigs' digs

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | A | | P | I | G | | W | H | I | P | S |
| ¯ | A | D | | C | N | E | | H | L | M | A | N |
| U | N | I | | C | N | T | H | E | B | A | L | L |
| F | E | E | | H | A | G | U | E | | | | |
| F | L | U | B | | T | O | M | | E | A | S | E |
| | | | A | T | E | | F | L | L | C | K | Y |
| C | O | I | N | S | | | | E | L | S | I | E |
| P | U | N | J | A | B | | P | I | E | | | |
| A | R | G | O | | A | P | U | | F | I | G | S |
| | | | P | U | R | S | | | N | R | A | |
| O | N | I | H | E | M | O | V | E | | B | A | R |
| W | I | D | O | W | | N | E | A | | O | V | I |
| L | A | S | T | S | | G | Y | M | | X | E | S |

Last Friday's Answer 12-18



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Christina Aguilera, 37; Katie Holmes, 39; Brad Pitt, 54; Steven Spielberg, 71.

Happy Birthday: Explore your options, but be realistic when it comes time to make life-altering decisions. Friendships will be the force prompting you to take on new interests and experiences. Business trips, meetings and research opportunities will help you make the right choices while also avoiding anyone who is trying to take advantage of you. Romance is encouraged. Your numbers are 5, 14, 21, 28, 33, 39, 43.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Focus on what you can learn from the experiences you encounter. Take a closer look inside and be aware of how you treat others. More gratitude and understanding will encourage stellar relationships. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Ease into conversations. Listen carefully and don't let tempers mount. A hectic schedule will make it difficult for you and those around you to be considerate. Set a good example and you will alleviate discord. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Truth matters. Be careful how you word the messages you send to others. A chance to do the right thing must not be tainted with a desire to stand out or to make someone else look bad. Think before you speak. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Share your feelings and make suggestions. Don't wait for someone else to go first. Follow through with your plans and look for opportunities to explore new beginnings. Expand your friendships and your interests. Participate in festive events. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Get into the swing of the season. Preparing for fun with friends or family or getting involved in events geared toward people of all ages will bring you joy and improve your outlook regarding your personal life and future. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Difficulties will arise if you get into a dispute over money or living arrangements. Concentrate on events that take place outside your family dwelling. Give touchy matters a chance to settle down, especially when they involve close friends. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Make travel plans. Taking time to be with someone you haven't had much time for this past year will bring you joy as well as information that will make you think hard about your future. ✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Check out your professional options and explore new ways to bring in extra cash. A change in the way you handle your money or make investments will result in greater stability. Take care of matters that are time-sensitive. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take action. If you say you are going to do something, follow through. You will gain admirers and impress anyone who has been skeptical regarding your knowledge and skills. Take control and you will make a difference. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't procrastinate. Raising your profile, reputation or status will give you a chance to enjoy some of the finer things in life. Gains can be made, but don't overspend when you should be saving up for something special. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You can make a difference to someone less fortunate than you if you volunteer your services, skills or time. A short trip, reunion or reconnecting with people from your past should not include excessive behavior. Protect your reputation. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Use your imagination and you will come up with a great plan or idea that will help you get a handle on some of the problems you've been facing. Try not to let others interfere with your plans or your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are excitable, imaginative and courageous. You are trendy and innovative.

*To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 8 | 5 | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | 8 | | 7 | | |
| 2 | | 5 | | | | | 4 | |
| | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | | 8 | 1 | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 6 |
| | 9 | 7 | | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | |
| | 7 | | | | | 3 | | 9 |
| | | 2 | | 4 | | | | |
| | | | | 2 | 3 | 1 | | |

Difficulty Level ★ 12/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 7 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| 9 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 4 |

Difficulty level ★★★★ 5-1

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'FERDINAND' (FILM) Solution: 10 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | S | P | O | R | T | A | U | C | B | E | Y | O | R | N |
| S | A | O | A | U | O | Z | E | U | G | I | R | D | O | R |
| U | N | U | L | C | R | O | P | A | U | G | S | S | D | L |
| A | T | M | L | R | O | J | O | H | N | E | R | L | A | U |
| L | H | A | E | M | A | R | T | I | N | E | Z | U | C | A |
| K | O | N | B | R | L | C | H | O | D | S | C | P | I | P |
| G | N | N | A | S | M | E | B | N | E | I | B | E | P | O |
| R | Y | I | S | E | D | C | A | O | E | R | U | P | A | H |
| E | E | N | I | G | T | T | K | H | B | O | N | A | H | S |
| T | L | G | E | F | F | N | E | I | C | B | N | C | N | A |
| A | H | H | O | R | S | E | E | N | N | I | Y | D | A | N |
| N | O | T | S | I | S | E | I | I | N | N | M | E | D | I |
| G | M | O | R | E | N | O | T | G | L | A | O | R | L | H |
| U | E | M | I | G | U | E | L | A | V | A | N | N | A | C |
| S | N | A | H | B | L | U | E | S | K | Y | V | T | S | C |

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Anderson, Angus, Anthony, Bee, Blue Sky, Bobby, Bones, Boris, Bunny, Cannavale, Carlos, Carmichael, Cena, China Shop, Cuatro, Feig, Greta, Guapo, Hans, Hedgehog, Home, Horse, Isabella, John, Kate, Klaus, Lupe, Manning, Martinez, McKinnon, Miguel, Moreno, Paco, Paul, Picador, Raul, Red Cape, Rodriguez, Saldanha, Sisto, Tennant, Toro, Valiente

**Last Friday's Answer: Templates**

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

## MVA IS HIRING!!!!!!!!

Opening Date: 12/11/17 Closing Date: 12/29/17

JVA#17-015: **Administrative Assistant/Receptionist**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or visit www.mymarianas.com for more details.

---

**Let's Go Tour Company dba Seatouch LLC** invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

**Assistant Animal Handler (3)**
High School Diploma or GED with previous work experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Chinese, and Korean languages. Preferably Lifeguard Certified.

To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00 PM on December 26, 2017.** Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

**Let's Go Tour Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer**
**Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.**

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Drive growth. Be the difference. DKSH

**Caronel Watch Center Saipan**
is seeking motivated and experienced candidates for the positions of:

**Store Manager**
- Previous retail managerial experience preferably in luxury goods retailing
- Proven leadership skills and excellent communications
- Foreign language skills a plus

**Store Supervisor**
- Previous retail supervising experience
- Excellent communications
- Foreign language skills a plus

**Part-Time Sales Associates**
- Previous retail experience
- Foreign language skills a plus

**EEO. Apply in person at Caronel Watch Center Saipan**
**1st Floor, Kase II Building, Beach Road, Garapan**
**or e-mail resume to elsie.tanayan@dksh.com**

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Securing Your World

## HIRING NOW
## SIGN-ON BONUS OF UP TO $300!

**Join the G4S team where our Values of Integrity, Respect, Safety, Security, Service Excellence, Innovation and Teamwork are the foundation of how we operate. We are seeking candidates to fill the following positions:**

- **Security Officers**
  Protect customer's interests & conduct numerous security patrols of industrial, commercial & residential locations
- **Lifeguards**
  Ensure the safety of individuals at the designated G4S customer's pool and/or beaches

**If you are hired for any of the positions above, you will receive a $150.00 Sign-On Bonus. After 3 months of successfully working for G4S, you will receive another $150.00 plus an increase in hourly wages!**

Applicant qualifications are: be a high school graduate; for Lifeguards – must possess an updated Lifeguard Certification for pool and open water.

**Competitive salary and benefits available!**

***Note: G4S will not sponsor applicant for work visa***

Please submit resumes to: hr@gu.g4s.com
Apply in person at the G4S CNMI Office located in
Ladera Center Beach Road San Jose
www.g4sguam.com

**G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer**

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WHATZIT Solution: For crying out loud!

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

*Saipan Tribune's* Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

*Saipan Tribune* also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

| ADS | (PRINT) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|---|
| • 3-Liner | $15 | $30 |
| • 5-Liner | $24 | $45 |

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**FORE!**

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

# Chiefs rout Chargers, seize control of AFC West

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—The Kansas City Chiefs saw their bandwagon empty during a midseason swoon, fans jumping ship almost as quickly as Kareem Hunt hitting a hole or Tyreek Hill speeding to the end zone.

They never lost faith in each other, though.

The Chiefs instead rallied to beat the Oakland Raiders last week, setting up a crucial AFC West showdown with the Los Angeles Chargers. And in a dominant performance reminiscent of earlier this season, the Chiefs rolled to a 30-13 victory Saturday night to seize control of the divisional race.

"It feels good to be back in this position," said Chiefs safety Ron Parker, who had one of the three interceptions thrown by the Chargers' Philip Rivers. "We stuck it out as a family the last couple weeks, did a good job of staying together. It would have been easy to fall apart."

The only way the Chiefs can squander the division and automatic playoff berth is by losing their last two games and the Chargers or Oakland Raiders winning out.

"It felt like a playoff game," Parker said. "This is the closest thing it gets to a playoff game."

The Chiefs (8-6) got production from their biggest stars: Alex Smith threw for 231 yards and two touchdowns, Kareem Hunt ran for 155 yards and accounted for two touchdowns, Tyreek Hill hauled in a 64-yard touchdown pass and Marcus Peters had a hand in forcing three turnovers.

AP

Los Angeles Chargers running back Melvin Gordon (28) is surrounded by Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Justin Houston (50), defensive back Steven Nelson (20), and defensive back Daniel Sorensen, right, during the first half of an NFL football game in Kansas City, Mo., Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017.

It all added up to an eighth straight win over the Chargers.

"I didn't think we played our best. We have to look at ourselves and ask why," Chargers coach Anthony Lynn said. "We missed tackles. We didn't execute well on offense. We went back to some dumb penalties we had early in the year. We made this game bigger than it really was."

The Chargers (7-7) led 13-10 early in the second half, but Rivers threw three interceptions)—two of them to Peters—and Austin Ekeler coughed up a fumble down the stretch.

That ended their four-game win streak and quite possibly their playoff hopes.

Rivers finished with 221 yards passing and a touchdown, but has thrown 13 interceptions during the Chargers' losing streak to the Chiefs. Melvin Gordon added 78 yards rushing and a score.

"We took a step back today," Lynn said.

The game shaped up as a matchup of teams going in opposite directions: The Chiefs were 5-0 before watching their division lead waste away, while the Chargers started out 0-4 but won seven of their next nine to forge a near-winner-take-all divisional showdown at Arrowhead Stadium.

Instead, the Chiefs looked like they did in their Week 3 win over the Chargers.

So did the Chargers, for that matter.

The Chiefs' defense, which played so salty last week against Oakland, was buoyed by the return of Peters from a one-game disciplinary suspension in helping to build a 10-6 halftime lead.

Rivers eventually got on track, going 5 for 5 for 88 yards on his first drive of the second half, and his 10-yard touchdown pass to trusty tight end Antonio Gates gave Los Angeles its only lead.

One that didn't last very long.

The Chiefs answered with a methodical, 69-yard scoring drive of their own. Hunt supplied most of the work, and he capped the drive by catching Smith's short TD toss to give the Chiefs a 17-13 lead.

"He's such a well-rounded football player," Smith said. "He's so good in the passing game, has such a good feel, which is so important for a running back."

Two plays later, Rivers floated a pass downfield and Peters leaped up to make an easy interception, and his long return set up first-and-goal at the Chargers 6. The Chiefs nearly turned it into another TD when Smith found Hunt again, but the tip of the ball hit the turf for an incompletion.

The Chiefs' challenge failed and Harrison Butker knocked through a field goal for a 20-13 lead.

The Chargers' offense, which had committed just six giveaways over the last nine games, coughed it up again three plays later. Peters helped to pry loose the ball from Ekeler, and Butker tacked on a 51-yard field goal a short while for a comfortable cushion.

# Kemp back in LA, Gonzalez out in 5-player deal with Braves

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Matt Kemp is returning to the place where he began his major league career, reacquired by the Los Angeles Dodgers on Saturday as part of a five-player trade with the Atlanta Braves that creates more financial flexibility for the reigning NL champions.

The Dodgers sent first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, oft-injured starting pitchers Scott Kazmir and Brandon McCarthy, infielder Charlie Culberson and cash to Atlanta for the 33-year-old Kemp.

Gonzalez agreed to waive his no-trade clause after receiving assurance from the Braves that he would be designated for assignment since they are already set at first base with Freddie Freeman.

"This allows him the opportunity to go and find some playing time," new Braves general manager Alex Anthopoulos said.

After sitting on the sidelines during the recent winter meetings, the Dodgers moved quickly to dump nearly $50 million in salary committed to Gonzalez, Kazmir and McCarthy for 2018. Kemp is owed about $43 million over the next two seasons.

Los Angeles was looking to reduce baseball's highest payroll of $240 million last season as a way of lowering exposure to higher luxury taxes.

The deal made sense for the Braves, too, since the players they acquired all have expiring contracts.

"It puts us in an even greater financial position going forward and going into next offseason as well," said Anthopoulos, who was hired from the Dodgers.

Kemp played for the Dodgers from 2006-14, hitting 182 home runs, fourth-most in Los Angeles history. The outfielder hit .276 with 19 homers, 64 RBI and 23 doubles in 115 games last season with the Braves.

Moving Kemp opens up a potential roster spot for top Braves prospect Ronald Acuna, who turns 20 on Monday. He was the most valuable player of the Arizona Fall League and Baseball America's minor league player of the year.

"We expect Ronald Acuna to be a very good player for a very long time," Anthopoulos said. "When he's ready to go, we're going to look to make room for him and certainly a deal like this won't hurt."

The 35-year-old Gonzalez helped the Dodgers win five straight NL West division titles after being acquired from the Red Sox in August 2012. He was an All-Star in 2015 and led the NL in RBI in 2014, but went on the disabled list with a herniated disk in his back last season for the first time in his career. He was usurped at first base by NL Rookie of the Year Cody Bellinger.

Gonzalez is owed $21.5 million in the final year of a $154 million, seven-year contract that the Dodgers absorbed in the 2012 trade with Boston.

## *Judge can't wait to play alongside Stanton*

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Aaron Judge can't wait to get to spring training and start learning from new teammate Giancarlo Stanton.

The reigning AL Rookie of the Year alongside the NL MVP. What a sluggin' 1-2 punch in the middle of the New York Yankees' lineup—not to mention the daily entertainment during batting practice.

Judge, who grew up in California's Central Valley and attended Fresno State, was at the Golden State Warriors' game against Dallas on Thursday night and spoke about his club's trade for Stanton this week.

"We've had a lot of acquisitions this offseason and I don't think we're done yet," Judge told The Associated Press before the game. "We're just adding not only great players but quality guys as well. I've gotten a chance to speak with Stanton. I saw him at the All-Star game and Home Run Derby. We've all seen what he does on the field but the kind of person he is and the value he will bring to this clubhouse, I'm looking forward to that. I'm excited for 2018. It's going to be a fun year."

The Yankees acquired Stanton on Monday from the payroll-shedding Marlins and new CEO Derek Jeter.

Stanton led the majors with 59 home runs and 132 RBI last season, while Judge was second in homers with 52. New York topped baseball with 241 home runs.

"He's an MVP," Judge said of the 28-year-old Stanton, also a right fielder like Judge. "You can learn a lot from a guy like that, just kind of watching how he goes through his normal routine. I'm just looking forward to being around him. He'll blend right into this team. We've got a good chemistry in the clubhouse. He's going to be a great fit for New York."

Stanton is owed $295 million over the final decade of his record $325 million, 13-year contract. The Marlins, with former Yankees star Jeter running the show, will send $30 million to the Yankees if Stanton doesn't exercise his right to opt out of the deal and become a free agent after the 2020 season.

# Spurs close on 13-0 run to rally past Mavs

**SAN ANTONIO** (AP)—At 40 years old, Manu Ginobili's refusal to slow down in his 16th season with the Spurs has been a source of inspiration to the team's young core.

The man and the mantra helped propel San Antonio to an improbable victory over Dallas on Saturday night.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points and 14 rebounds and the Spurs scored the final 13 points of the game, rallying for a 98-96 victory over the Mavericks.

Aldridge's fall-away, 11-foot jumper tied the game at 96 with 23.4 seconds remaining and Ginobili's driving layup with 3.1 seconds was the game-winning shot.

"He's our grandpa," 21-year-old Dejounte Murray said, chuckling afterwards. "He's a beast, man. You've all seen what he's done for this organization and he's still around giving his wisdom to all the new guys. To see him coming in every day, I mean there's not one day I've seen Manu not show up at the facility. Being a young guy, I've got to be there every day."

Ginobili's layup off the left side of the glass gave the Spurs their first lead of the game after trailing by as many as 16 points.

"We did a lot of good things, but the ending is unforgiveable," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said.

Maxi Kleber had 21 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 19 for Dallas in the final regular season matchup between the Southwest Division rivals.

Kleber's 3-pointer gave Dallas a 96-85 lead with 4:11 remaining, but the Spurs held them scoreless the remainder of the game.

The Mavericks drought included a turnover when Wes Matthews was unable to inbound the ball with 23.4 seconds remaining. Mathews threw the ball at Ginobili's legs to avoid a 5-second violation, but the Spurs gained possession when the ball ricocheted off Matthews just as he stepped inbounds.

"We did everything right to lose," Nowitzki said. "We missed shots offensively, bad turnover, gave them some offensive rebounds. Letting Ginobili go left down the stretch to lay it in. We literally had to do everything perfect to lose this one and we did."

Aldridge had his 12th double-double of the season to help offset the absences of starters Kawhi Leonard, Tony Parker and Danny Green.

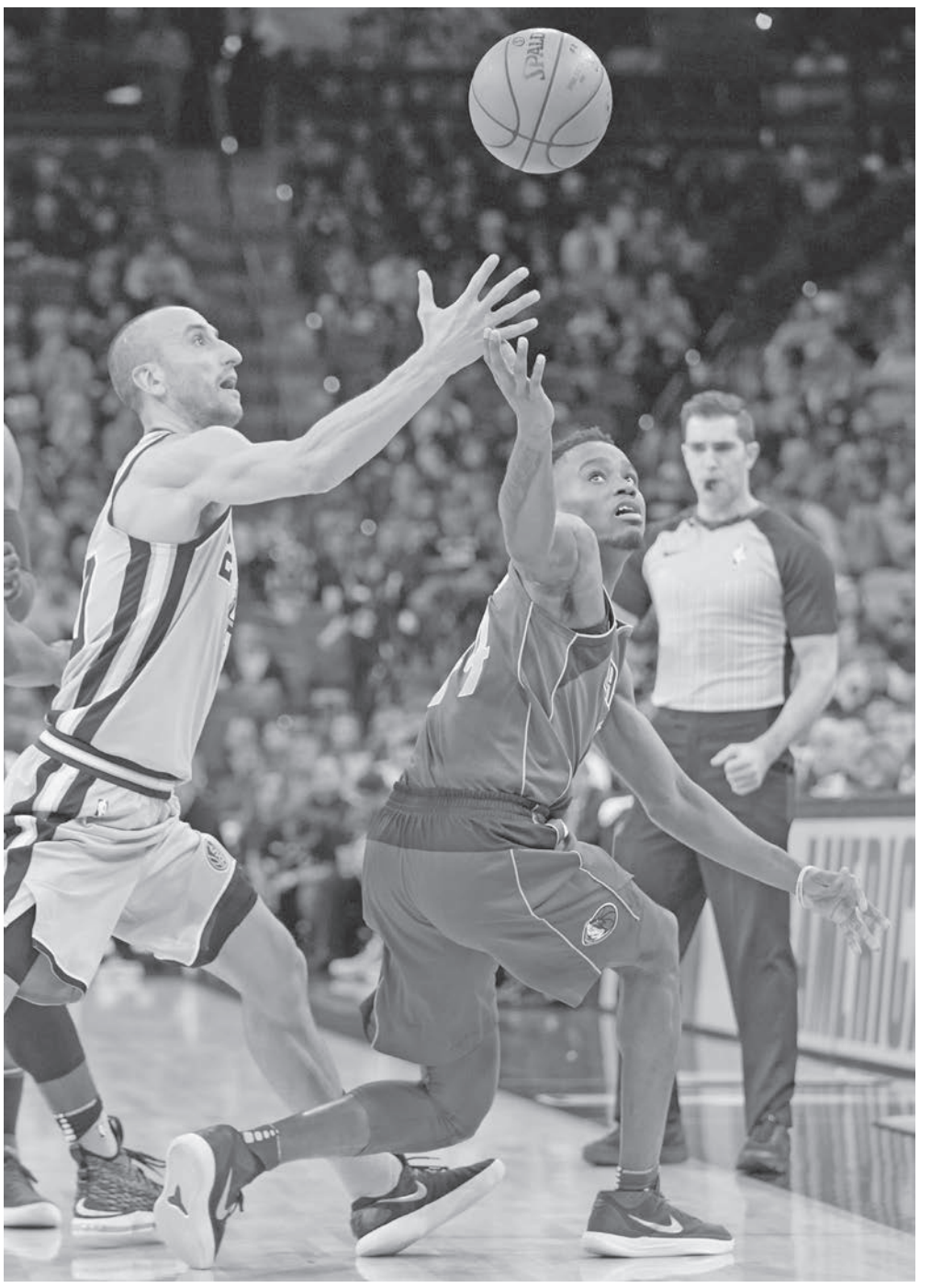
Coming off a 15-point blowout in Houston on Friday night, San Antonio was able to avoid its third straight loss.

"We played with everybody in Houston and hoped to play a good game in which we could grow and learn from our mistakes while playing against the best team in the NBA right now and I don't think we got anything out of it," Ginobili said. "So, if after that poor effort we came here and played badly again and lost, it would've been a tough one. We are proud of this win."

The Spurs missed their first five shots, all short jumpers from Aldridge and Pau Gasol, on their way to shooting 30 percent in the opening quarter. The Mavericks took advantage, charging to a 31-18 lead after the first quarter.

San Antonio's reserves reversed the team's fortunes in the third quarter.

Davis Bertans finished with 13 points and Ginobili added 12 off the bench.



AP

San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili, left, chases the ball against Dallas Mavericks guard Antonius Cleveland during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017, in San Antonio.

## Cavaliers 109, Jazz 100

In Cleveland, LeBron James had 29 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his 60th career triple-double and the Cavaliers beat the short-handed Utah Jazz.

James had his fifth triple-double of the season and third in his last four games. He had 10 points in the fourth quarter, was 9 of 15 from the field and 10 of 10 at the foul line.

Cleveland has won 17 of 18 overall and 11 straight at Quicken Loans Arena.

Center Rudy Gobert (sprained ligament and bone bruise in left knee) and forward Derrick Favors (left eye laceration) were out for Utah. Both were injured during Friday night in a win in Boston.

Rookie Donovan Mitchell led the Jazz with 26 points, making 10 of 15 from the field. Utah made 17 of 34 3-point attempts.

## Rockets 115, Bucks 111

In Houston, James Harden scored 31 points, Chris Paul had 25 and Houston beat Milwaukee for its 13th straight victory.

The winning streak is the Rockets' longest streak since a franchise-best 22 straight in 2007-08.

Harden hit a step-back 3-pointer over Malcolm Brogdon and was fouled, giving Houston an 11-point lead with less than six minutes remaining. In the last two minutes, Paul hit back-to-back mid-range jumpers on consecutive possessions to put the game out of reach.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points, nine rebounds, five assists and four steals for Milwaukee. Khris Middleton had 23 points, and Brogdon added 20. Milwaukee has lost three straight.

## Knicks 111, Thunder 96

In New York, Carmelo Anthony got the cheers but New York got the win, shutting out its former All-Star in the second half and beating Oklahoma City for its fourth straight victory.

Michael Beasley tied his season high with 30 points in place of injured Kristaps Porzingis, and Doug McDermott, one of the players acquired for Anthony, added 11 of his 13 after halftime to help the Knicks break open the game. Anthony scored all 12 of his points in the first half.

Russell Westbrook had 25 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the Thunder. They were trying to sweep a three-game trip that began with Paul George's winning return to Indiana on Wednesday.

## Suns 108, Timberwolves 106

In Minneapolis, Isaiah Canaan hit three free throws with 6 seconds to play in his first game with Phoenix and the Suns rallied to beat Minnesota.

Added to the roster this week after the injury-ravaged Suns received a hardship extension, Canaan finished with 15 points and drew a foul on Jeff Teague on a 3-pointer with Minnesota leading by one. Originally ruled a shot-clock violation, reply officials overturned the call and Canaan calmly sank all three shots amid a loud crowd of neon green-clad fans.

Alex Len blocked Jimmy Butler's layup attempt out of bounds on the ensueing possession. Butler had one more look from the corner, but the attempt rimmed out and the Suns snapped their five-game losing streak.

Dragan Bender and Troy Daniels each scored 17 points for the Suns. Karl-Anthony Towns led Minnesota with 28 points and 11 rebounds.

## Trail Blazers 93, Hornets 91

In Charlotte, CJ McCollum had 25 points, Damian Lillard flirted with a triple-double and Portland beat Charlotte for its third straight road victory.

Lillard had 18 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds. Nic Batum had a season-high 23 points for the Hornets. They have dropped 10 of their last 12 games, including five straight at home.

## Heat 90, Clippers 85

In Miami, Josh Richardson scored a career-high 28 points to help Miami beat Los Angeles.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra became the franchise's victory leader with 455, passing Pat Riley. Spoelstra is only one of two active head coaches in the NBA with at least 450 wins with their current team, joining San Antonio's Gregg Popovich.

The Clippers' Lou Williams was held to 13 points, snapping a string of scoring at least 17 in 11 consecutive games.

# Putin accuses US agencies of manipulating doping testimony

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin accused U.S. agencies of manipulating evidence from the main whistleblower on doping at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Putin said Thursday that former Moscow anti-doping laboratory director Grigory Rodchenkov—who is under witness protection after fleeing to the United States last year -- is "under the control" of the American agencies, including the FBI.

Rodchenkov being in the United States "is not a positive for us, it's a negative. It means he's under the control of American special services," Putin said. "What are they doing with him there? Are they giving him some kind of substances so that he says what's required?"

Putin added that Rodchenkov should never have been appointed to run Moscow's anti-doping laboratory in the first place.

"It was a mistake on the part of those who did it, and I know who did it," he said, but didn't name names or say they should be punished.

Testimony from Rodchenkov played a key role in International Olympic Committee investigations which led last week to Russian athletes being required to compete under a neutral flag at the upcoming Pyeongchang Games.

Rodchenkov said he was ordered by the sports ministry to oversee steroid use by Russian athletes in many sports, and to cover up their doping by falsifying test results and swapping dirty samples for clean ones.

The IOC's decision to trust Rodchenkov's evidence is "nonsense," Putin said, portraying the scientist as mentally unstable and referring repeatedly to Russian criminal investigations against him.

The Russian government has denied it had any involvement in doping, particularly around the Sochi Olympics, which is seen as a key prestige project.

Russian officials have previously said they accept some drug use occurred, but on a much smaller scale than alleged, and that Rodchenkov tricked some clean Russian athletes into taking banned substances by claiming they were legitimate dietary supplements.

# Ronaldo goal gives Real Madrid 3rd Club World Cup title

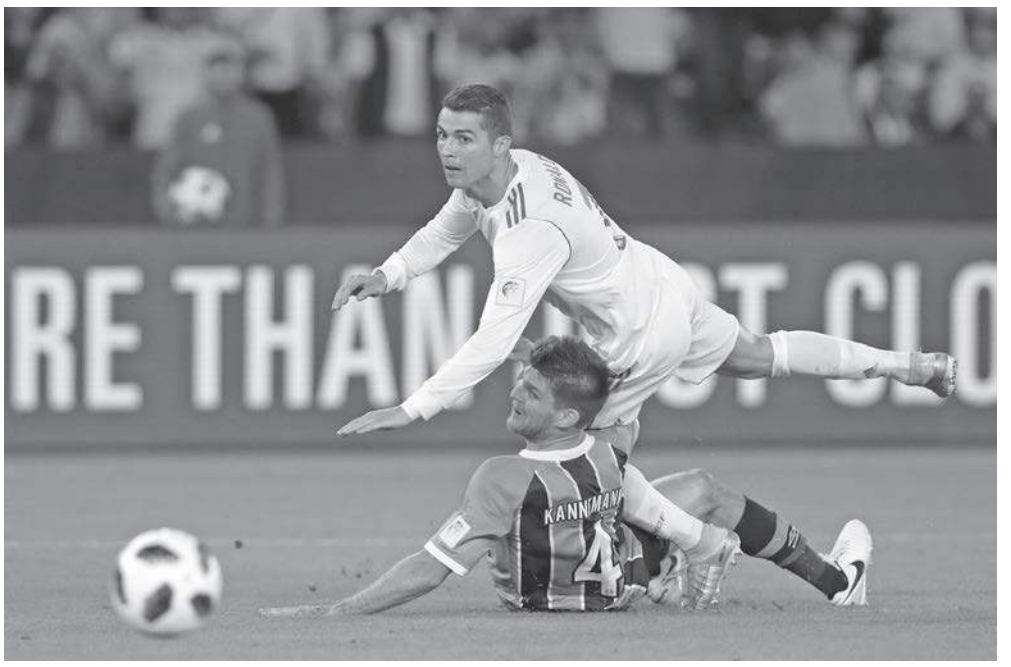
**ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Cristiano Ronaldo scored from a free-kick as Real Madrid claimed its third Club World Cup title after beating Brazilian team Gremio 1-0 Saturday.

The Ballon d'Or winner fired his right-footed shot between two players in Gremio's defensive wall, leaving goalkeeper Marcelo Grohe no hope of reaching the ball before it bounced inside the post in the 53rd minute.

"(Ronaldo) is always there at the key moments," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said. "Nobody can do what he does."

Madrid became the first team to retain the FIFA Club World Cup title, and collected its fifth trophy of 2017, along with the Champions League, Spanish league, European Super Cup and Spanish Super Cup.

Ronaldo celebrated the goal by rushing to Madrid's dugout where he was embraced by his teammates. The goal increased Ronaldo's record to seven goals in the competition. He also scored in Madrid's 2-1 comeback win over Al Jazira in the semifinals.



AP

Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo falls on top of Gremio's Walter Kannemann during the Club World Cup final soccer match between Real Madrid and Gremio at Zayed Sports City stadium in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017.

"What am I going to say? The numbers speak for themselves. I am very happy. The team played fantastically well and it has won another title," Ronaldo said. "We played a very good game and deserved the victory."

Madrid equaled Barcelona's record of three titles for the short knockout tournament between the champions of FIFA's six continental confederations and the host nation's league winner.

European clubs have won 10 of the last 11 Club World Cups, with only Brazil's Corinthians interrupting that streak in 2012 when it defeated Chelsea.

Zidane played the same starting 11 from last season's Champions League final in June, when Madrid crushed Juventus 4-1—led by Ronaldo's double.

The European champions outclassed Gremio throughout the match, but the closest they got to scoring in the first half was Dani Carvajal's goal-bound volley in the 20th that was cleared by Pedro Geromel.

Gremio had to scramble on several occasions to stop Madrid inside its own area. At the other end, a free-kick by Edilson for the South American champions swerved onto the top netting near the half-hour mark.

Geromel had tried to set the tone early on with a hard tackle that left Ronaldo writhing in pain, and hoping for a booking that never came.

Ronaldo had a poor first half. He twice erred in short passes with his back heel that failed to reach his teammates, and he squandered a good opportunity when he took too long to shoot when a loose ball fell to him close to the net.

All that changed after the interval. Ronaldo baited Jailson into fouling him outside the area with some fancy dribbling, setting up his winner.

Ronaldo thought he had another goal moments later, but Karim Benzema was ruled offside before he passed the ball back to Ronaldo.

Marcelo Grohe kept his side in the game by pushing Luka Modric's shot onto his post and denied Ronaldo a second goal, but Gremio never mounted a serious response to get the equalizer.

Mexico's Pachuca beat Al Jazira 4-1 in the third-place match earlier Saturday.

# Pulisic becomes youngest US men's soccer player of year

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Nineteen-year-old Christian Pulisic has become the youngest winner of the U.S. Soccer Federation's Male Player of the Year award.

The USSF said Thursday that Pulisic received 94 percent of the votes. Landon Donovan had been the youngest winner, earning the honor at 21 in 2003.

A midfielder from Hershey, Pennsylvania, Pulisic had six goals and four assists in nine games for the national team this year and was involved in 13 of the 17 American goals in games he played.

He had three goals and three assists in 25 matches in 2016-17 for Borussia Dortmund, his first full season with the Bundesliga team.

Voters included national team coaches and staff, men's national team players who appeared in 2017, the USSF board of directors and Athlete Council, professional league coaches and selec media and college head coaches.

Meanwhile, Marco Polo del Nero was suspended as president of Brazil's soccer confederation on Friday, two years after he was indicted in the United States on charges of racketeering conspiracy, wire fraud conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy.

FIFA said Del Nero was under an ethics investigation and has been banned for 90 days from all soccer activities.

Del Nero fled Zurich in May 2015 when other FIFA colleagues were arrested. They included Jose Maria Marin, who was at the time the head of the Brazilian confederation, known as the CBF. Marin and two other South American soccer officials have been on trial in New York. Del Nero was indicted on Dec. 2, 2015.

"As many Brazilians that love soccer, my hope is that he is banned for good," soccer great Romario -- now a Brazilian federal senator—wrote on his Facebook page.

"Del Nero has already had his crimes exposed along with those of other crooks like Jose Maria Marin, who is in jail in the United States, and (former CBF president) Ricardo Teixeira who is still on the loose in Brazil. They all used CBF to get illegally rich."

Del Nero's lawyers said in a statement that he is going to appeal FIFA's suspension. They insisted there was no evidence against him.

The attorneys labelled the ethics committee report "funny investigative speculations." They argued Del Nero took office as CBF president in 2015 and should not be linked to contracts from previous administrations.

FIFA failed to ban Del Nero until Friday. FIFA President Gianni Infantino has been questioned about him in recent days.

Infantino was photographed at last year's Olympics receiving a Brazilian soccer shirt from Del Nero, and reporters questioned him about Del Nero at the World Cup draw this month in Moscow.

## KNIGHTS

*From Page 28*

time and Mt. Carmel made sure it will be on the winning end, as the Knights were so unforgiving on defense that the Eagles could not buy even a single basket in a very long stretch.

GCA failed to make it 5-0 against Mt. Carmel as the Eagles fired blanks for around nine minutes bridging the second and third quarters. Before collapsing, GCA threatened the Knights, 12-13, as Jether Espanola's triple capped an 8-1 scoring surge in the first six minutes of the second canto. However, that was it for the Eagles, as a drive from Matthew Richardson and a corner triple from Jaydon Tenorio gave Mt. Carmel more breathing room at the break, 17-12.

At the resumption of the game, GCA's shooters continued to struggle against the Knights' defense. On a couple of occasions, the Eagles even had a hard time just making the inbound and when they did, the ball handlers were also rattled by Mt. Carmel's pesky defense. On a few times that GCA managed to pull up for a shot, its players still missed as they were either not squared off for the basket or were challenged by Knights defenders.

The Eagles were stuck to 12 points until the closing minute of the third period. A split free throw from Kevin Song in the last 45 seconds of the penultimate frame ended GCA's long drought. With their opponents' lackluster show on offense, the Knights managed to open a 29-13 lead at the end of the third canto. Angelo Factor scored 5 points in the third frame, while Seok Jun Yun, Aven and Ace Evangelista, and Henry Yu combined for the 7 other markers of the eventual champions.

The Knights then put the finishing touches on their impressive title win by making easy baskets in the fourth quarter and still playing no let up on defense until the last two minutes of the finale.

Yun led Mt. Carmel in scoring with his 13 points, while Factor and Tenorio chipped in 8 each. Don Jin Choi had 7 markers on a losing effort for GCA, as he tried to step up for Matthew Mamaril, who was a marked man in the finals and went scoreless against Mt. Carmel's relentless defense. Only Choi and Amir Abes made more than one field goal in the Eagles' failed attempt to dethrone the Knights.

**MCS 45**— Yun 13, Factor 8, Tenorio 8, Richardson 7, Yu 4, Aven Evangelista 2, Cepeda 2, Ace Evangelista 1.

**GCA 23** — Choi 7, Abes 5, Espanola 5, Song 3, S. Kim 2, T. Kim 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 8-4, 17-12, 29-13, 45-23.

## BJJ

*From Page 28*

Jeff Garcia, and Paulo Sangalang now owns blue belts, while Shane Alvarez, Vince Masga, and Ken Tanzawa got their purple (from blue) belts.

"To those who were promoted, keep striving to improve your skill set and continue to enjoy the Jiu-Jitsu journey. We will always be students of the game and life in general. Every promotion is just the beginning and small step to more and more knowledge yet to be harnessed," Alvarez said.

Roberto, during the promotion ceremony, also encouraged the promoted individuals and other BJJ practitioners to continue learning the discipline and stay committed to it.

Before handing over the belts to the Cuki and company, Roberto conducted a BJJ clinic for Trench Tech members for more than one hour. He demonstrated the basic and advanced techniques in BJJ, giving emphasis on how to effectively use one's grappling skills in forcing an opponent to tap out.

Meanwhile, Trench Tech is reminding interested individuals to register for The Art of War 12 set this Dec. 30.

Entry fee is $20 and the competition will also be held at the Trench Tech Gym from 9am to 4pm

The Art of War 2 is supported by Trench Tech Purebred Saipan, Monster Energy, Hagu Next, Purebred, IT&E, Hertz, and Mango Resort and will feature different weight classes. To register, contact Cuki at 783-4MMA (4662).

## TSUNAMI

*From Page 28*

came in the 50m butterfly after she clocked in at 31.68 seconds. Dangol eclipsed the record (32.38 seconds) of former Tsunami Saipan bet Miku Tammy, who set the previous mark on March 21, 2014, and was the runaway winner in her age group. Tsunami Saipan's Julia Jinang, Ashley Jeon, and Michelle Chen did the same race with the first two swimmers getting personal best times of 51.88 (from 52.47) and 55.76 seconds (from 1:10.68), respectively. Chen clocked in at 1:03.26.

Besides her record swims in the 800m and 50m butterfly, another highlight from Dangol's performance in the Tsunami Open was her 400m freestyle event. According to coach Hiro Kimura, Dangol tallied a 5:15.71 in the eight-lap race and her time was a personal best (from 5:22. 84). Her mark is also not that far from the CNMI age group record of 5:12.09 (by Welch).

Meanwhile, Watanabe's lone age group record in this month's meet came from the 1,500m race.

The 12-year-old swimmer posted 20:54.97, surpassing another mark from Welch, who timed in at 21:10.55 on April 28, 2002.

Nanaka was one of the only three swimmers who did the longest event of the day and she was also the fastest, beating older sister Aika (21:17.54) and SSC's Jinju Thompson (22:31.26).

Nanaka, Kimura noted, also did well in the 50m (39.88 seconds) and 100m (PB of 1:25.78) breaststroke events. She was just 0.38 of a second short of matching the age group record (1:25.40) of Welch in the 100m breaststroke.

# National Elite Academy League

**PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO**

National Elite Academy coaches and officials pose with students from the various schools that participated in the NEA League held early this month at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

A Garapan Elementary School player, right, dribbles in front of a William S. Reyes Elementary School defender.

A Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School goalie catches the ball during their game against San Vicente Elementary School.

Garapan Elementary School and William S. Reyes Elementary School players fall down after colliding while battling for the ball

A Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School player, left, tries to dribble past a San Vicente Elementary School defender.

A San Vicente Elementary School player, right, is closely guarded by a Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School defender.

Oleai Elementary School players check Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita for the schedule of their games.

William S. Reyes Elementary School, right, beats a Garapan Elementary School striker to the ball.

**Chiefs rout Chargers, seize control of AFC West**

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Spurs close on 13-0 run to rally past Mavs**

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# 4-peat for Knights

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School's Kelvin Cepeda, center, drives against Grace Christian Academy's Kevin Song, left, and Do Jin Choi during the fourth quarter of their title game in the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School coach Francis San Nicolas may sound like a broken record, but once again he credited the Knights' success in the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League to their defense.

Mt. Carmel nearly held Grace Christian Academy scoreless in the third quarter to cruise to a 45-23 victory in their boys high school division title duel last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"Everyone worked on defense and stayed focus in the game. There were a couple of times they got excited, especially when we started to have a big lead, but then they settled down and were reminded to keep the pressure up," San Nicolas said moments after the Knights completed a four-peat and matched the Eagles' achievement in the division.

The Eagles dominated the league from 2009 to 2013, beating the Knights in all four occasions, before the latter had their string of championships in the next three years. Then the rival schools met for the fifth

See KNIGHTS on Page 26

## 2 Tsunami Saipan swimmers set records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Saipan's Nanaka Watanabe, left, and Ashley Dangol are all smiles after completing a training session last week at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Ashley Dangol and Nanaka Watanabe posted CNMI age group records during the Tsunami Saipan Open held early this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Dangol earned record marks in two events in the girls 11 to 12 age group, while Watanabe made one in the same division.

The 11-year-old Dangol registered 10:30.99 in the lung-busting 800m freestyle event, breaking the record (10:51.15) of Saipan Swim Club's Myana Welch. The age group mark in the 16-lap race stood for more than 16 years, as Welch logged the best time on Nov. 10, 2001.

Dangol's time in the 800m freestyle was the fourth fastest among the eight swimmers who completed the event. Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru had the best time in the event after submitting 9:28.94.

The Tsunami Saipan swimmer's other age group mark

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## 10 get BJJ promotion

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Black Belt professor Steve Roberto, front row fourth left, of Purebred Headquarters Guam poses with Saipan's BJJ practitioners during a promotion ceremony last Friday at the Trench Tech Gym.

Ten Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu practitioners got their new belts during last Saturday's promotion ceremony at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan.

Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez led the promoted individuals, as he received his brown belt (from purple) from no less than Black Belt professor Steve Roberto of Purebred Headquarters Guam.

The honor roll also included Erin Dean, Sharon Paek, and Byron Fujihira, who started the program with stripes and now have white belts. From white belts, Giovonni Taitingfong,

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